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| **Esnoga Bet Emunah**  **12210 Luckey Summit**  **San Antonio, TX 78252**  **United States of America**  **© 2022**  [**https://www.betemunah.org/**](https://www.betemunah.org/)  **E-Mail:** [**gkilli@aol.com**](mailto:gkilli@aol.com) | **Menorah 5** | **Esnoga Bet El**  **102 Broken Arrow Dr.**  **Paris TN 38242**  **United States of America**  **© 2022**  [**https://torahfocus.com/**](https://torahfocus.com/)  **E-Mail:** [**waltoakley@charter.net**](mailto:waltoakley@charter.net) |

**Triennial Cycle (Triennial Torah Cycle) / Septennial Cycle (Septennial Torah Cycle)**

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| **Three and 1/2 year Lectionary Readings** | **Third Year of the Triennial Reading Cycle** |
| **Iyar 06, 5782 / May 06-07, 2022** | **Seventh Year of the Shmita Cycle** |

**Candle Lighting and Habdalah Times:** [**https://www.chabad.org/calendar/candlelighting.htm**](https://www.chabad.org/calendar/candlelighting.htm)

**Roll of Honor:**

This Commentary comes out weekly and on the festivals thanks to the great generosity of:

His Eminence Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David and beloved wife HH Giberet Batsheva bat Sarah

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His Excellency Adon Brad Gaskill and beloved wife Cynthia Gaskill

His Excellency Adon Shlomoh ben Abraham

His Excellency Adon Ya’aqob ben David

**For their regular and sacrificial giving, providing the best oil for the lamps, we pray that GOD’s richest blessings be upon their lives and those of their loved ones, together with all Yisrael and her Torah Scholars, amen ve amen!**

**Also, a great thank you and great blessings be upon all who send comments to the list about the contents and commentary of the weekly Torah Seder and allied topics**.

**If you want to subscribe to our list and ensure that you never lose any of our commentaries, or would like your friends also to receive this commentary, please do send me an E-Mail to** [**chozenppl@GMail.com**](mailto:chozenppl@GMail.com) **with your E-Mail or the E-Mail addresses of your friends. Toda Rabba!**



**Friday Evening May 6, 2022**

**Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 21**

**Barukh Atah ADONAI**

**Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam**

**Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu**

**Al S’firat HaO’omer.**

**Today is twenty days of the Omer which are three weeks.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

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| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 21 | Darshan/Moreh | Iyar 6 | 4:7-10 | Compassion united with Humility |

**But to every one of us is given loving-kindness** (chesed) **according to the measure of the gift of Messiah.[[1]](#footnote-1) Therefore, He** (God) **says, "When he ascended[[2]](#footnote-2) up on high, [[3]](#footnote-3) he led captivity captive and gave gifts to men You have received gifts among men, yes, among the rebellious also, that the Lord God might tabernacle** – **Shakhan there**." (Ps. 68:18).



We pray for our beloved Hakham His Eminence Rabbi Dr. Yosef ben Haggai. Mi Sheberach…He who blessed our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and Aaron, David, and Solomon, may He bless and heal the sick person HE Rabbi Dr. Yosef ben Haggai, May the Holy One, Blessed is He, be filled with compassion for him to restore his health, to heal him, to strengthen him, and to revivify him. And may He send him speedily a complete recovery from heaven, among the other sick people of Yisrael, a recovery of the body and a recovery of the spirit, swiftly and soon, and we will say amen ve amen!

We pray for His Honor Paqid Adon Tsuriel ben Abraham a righteous and faithful servant of G-d who as a consequence of having radiation after a tooth extraction H H has been left with a hole in his mandibula and now has to take antibiotics and other medicines., Mi Sheberach - He who blessed our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and Aaron, David and Solomon, may He bless and heal His Honor Paqid Adon Tsuriel ben Abraham, May the Holy One, Blessed is He, be filled with compassion for him to restore his health, to heal him, to strengthen him, and to revivify him. And may He send him speedily a complete recovery from heaven, among the other sick people of Yisrael, a recovery of the body and a recovery of the spirit and mind, swiftly and soon, and we say amen ve amen!

**A Prayer for Israel**

Our Father in Heaven, Rock, and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel, the first manifestation of the approach of our redemption. Shield it with Your lovingkindness, envelop it in Your peace, and bestow Your light and truth upon its leaders, ministers, and advisors, and grace them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land, grant them deliverance, and adorn them in a mantle of victory. Ordain peace in the land and grant its inhabitants eternal happiness.

Lead them, swiftly and upright, to Your city Zion and to Jerusalem, the abode of Your Name, as is written in the Torah of Your servant Moses: “Even if your outcasts are at the ends of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather you, from there He will fetch you. And the Lord your God will bring you to the land that your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it, and He will make you more prosperous and more numerous than your fathers.” Draw our hearts together to revere and venerate Your name and to observe all the precepts of Your Torah, and send us quickly the Messiah son of David, agent of Your vindication, to redeem those who await Your deliverance.

**Blessings Before Torah Study**

**Blessed are You, Ha-Shem our GOD, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us through Your commandments, and commanded us to actively study Torah. Amen!**

**Please Ha-Shem, our GOD, sweeten the words of Your Torah in our mouths and in the mouths of all Your people Israel. May we and our offspring, and our offspring's offspring, and all the offspring of Your people, the House of Israel, may we all, together, know Your Name and study Your Torah for the sake of fulfilling Your delight. Blessed are You, Ha-Shem, Who teaches Torah to His people Israel. Amen!**

**Blessed are You, Ha-Shem our GOD, King of the universe, Who chose us from all the nations, and gave us the Torah. Blessed are You, Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**Ha-Shem spoke to Moses, explaining a Commandment. "Speak to Aaron and his sons, and teach them the following Commandment: This is how you should bless the Children of Israel. Say to the Children of Israel:**

**May Ha-Shem bless you and keep watch over you; - Amen!**

**May Ha-Shem make His Presence enlighten you, and may He be kind to you; - Amen!**

**May Ha-Shem bestow favor on you and grant you peace. – Amen!**

**This way, the priests will link My Name with the Israelites, and I will bless them."**

**These are the Laws for which the Torah did not mandate specific amounts: How much growing produce must be left in the corner of the field for the poor; how much of the first fruits must be offered at the Holy Temple; how much one must bring as an offering when one visits the Holy Temple three times a year; how much one must do when performing acts of kindness; and there is no maximum amount of Torah that a person must study.**

**These are the Laws whose benefits a person can often enjoy even in this world, even though the primary reward is in the Next World: They are: Honoring one's father and mother; doing acts of kindness; early attendance at the place of Torah study -- morning and night; showing hospitality to guests; visiting the sick; providing for the financial needs of a bride; escorting the dead; being very engrossed in prayer; bringing peace between two people, and between husband and wife; but the study of Torah is as great as all of them together. Amen!**

**Shabbat: “****Bae-et Hahi Amar” – Shabbat “****At that time (HaShem) said”**

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| **Shabbat** | **Torah Reading:** | **Weekday Torah Reading:** |
| **בָּעֵת הַהִוא אָמַר** |  | **Saturday Afternoon** |
| **“****Bae-et Hahi Amar”** | Reader 1 – D’barim 10:1-5 | Reader 1 – D’barim 11:10-12 |
| **“****At that time (HaShem) said”** | Reader 2 – D’barim 10:6-8 | Reader 2 – D’barim 11:13-15 |
| **“**En aquel tiempo (Ha-Shem) me dijo: **¨** | Reader 3 – D’barim 10:9-11 | Reader 3 – D’barim 10:16-18 |
| D’barim (Deut.) 10:1 – 11:9 | Reader 4 – D’barim 10:12-15 |  |
| Ashlamatah: I Kings 8:9-18 | Reader 5 – D’barim 10: 16-19 | **Monday and Thursday Mornings** |
|  | Reader 6 – D’barim 10:20-22 | Reader 1 – D’barim 11:10-12 |
| Psalms: 119:1-24 | Reader 7 – D’barim 11:1-9 | Reader 2 – D’barim 11:13-15 |
| Mk 14:17-21: Luke 22:21-23 | Maftir: B’Midbar 28:9-15 | Reader 3 – D’barim 10:16-18 |

**Contents of the Torah Seder**

* Result of Moses’ Intercession – Deut. 10:1-11
* The Second Discourse of Moses – Deut 10:12 – 11:32
  + Final review of all the reasons for, and results of, obedience to G-d – Deut 10:12-22
  + Let Personal Experience of G-d’s Wondrous Deeds on Behalf of Israel Lead to Love and Obedience – Deut. 11:1-9

**Rashi & Targum Pseudo Jonathan**

**for: D’barim (Deut.) 10:1 - 11:9**‎

| **RASHI** | **TARGUM PSEUDO-JONATHAN** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **At that time, the Lord said to me,** "Hew for yourself two stone tablets like the first ones and come up to Me onto the mountain, and make for yourself a wooden ark, | 1. **At that time did the Lord say to me:** Hew for yourself two tables of marble according to the form of the first; and ascend before Me into the mountain, and make for yourself an ark of wood. |
| 2. And I shall inscribe on the tablets the words that were upon the first tablets which you shattered and you shall place them into the ark. | 2. And I will write upon the tables the words which were upon the former ones, which you did break with your entire strength; and you will put them within the ark. |
| 3. So I made an ark of acacia wood, and I hewed two stone tablets like the first ones, and I ascended the mountain, with the two tablets in my hand. | 3. And I made an ark of sitta wood, and hewed two marble tables according to the form of the first, and went up into the mountain, having the two tables in my hand. |
| 4. And He inscribed on the tablets, like the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the Lord had spoken to you on the mountain, from the midst of the fire, on the day of the assembly, and the Lord gave them to me. | 4. And He wrote upon the tables according to the former writing, the Ten Words which the LORD spoke with you from the mount in the midst of the fire on the day that the congregation was gathered together, and the LORD gave them to me. |
| 5. And I turned and came down from the mountain, and placed the tablets in the ark which I had made, and there they were, as the Lord had commanded me. | 5. And I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tables into the ark which I had made, and there are they laid up (hidden) as the LORD commanded me. |
| 6. The children of Israel journeyed from the wells of B'nei Ya'akan to Moserah; there Aaron died, and there he was buried; and Eleazar his son served as kohen in his stead. | 6. And the children of Israel journeyed from the villages of the wells of the Beni Jahakan to Mosera. There Amalek, who reigned in Arad, and who had heard that Aharon was dead, and that the Cloud of Glory had gone up, (came and) fought with them. And those of Israel who were distressed by that war sought to go back into Mizraim, and returned (towards it) six journeys; (but) the sons of Levi followed after them, and slew eight families of them, and the remainder returned. Of the sons of Levi also four families were slain. And they said one to another, **What has been the cause of this slaughter? Because we have been remiss in the mourning for Aharon the Saint. Therefore all the children of Israel observed there a mourning for Aharon's death; and there was he buried, and Elazar his son ministered in his stead.** |
| 7. From there, they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Yotvath, a land with streams of water. | 7. Thence they journeyed to Gudgod, and from Gudgod to Jotbath, a land flowing with streams of water.1 |
| 8. At that time, the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to serve Him, and to bless in His Name, to this day. | 8. At that time the LORD distinguished the tribe of Levi, because they had been zealous (even) to slay for His honor; that they should bear the ark of the LORD's covenant, and stand before the LORD to minister unto Him and to bless in His Name until this day. |
| 9. Therefore, Levi has no portion or inheritance with his brothers; the Lord is his inheritance, as the Lord, your God spoke to him. | 9. Therefore the tribe of Levi has not a portion or inheritance with his brethren; the gifts which the LORD gives him are his inheritance, as the LORD your God has spoken to him. |
| 10. And I remained on the mountain like the first days forty days and forty nights, and the Lord hearkened to me also at that time; the Lord did not wish to destroy you. | 10. But I stood in the mount praying and interceding as in the former days (of the) forty days and nights, and the LORD received my prayer at that time also, and the LORD would not destroy you. |
| 11. And the Lord said to me, "Arise, go to lead the travels before the people, so that they may come and possess the land I promised their forefathers to give them. | 11. And the LORD said to me, Arise, go, lead forth the people, that they be brought in, and possess the land which I promised to their fathers to give them. |
| 12. **And now, O Israel, what does the Lord, your God, demand of you? Only to fear the Lord, your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, and to worship the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul,** | 12. **And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but that you fear the LORD your God, to walk in all the ways that are right before Him, and that you love Him, and serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** |
| 13. **to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes, which I command you this day, for your good.** | 13. **to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you this day, that it may be well with you?** |
| 14. **Behold, to the Lord, your God, belong the heavens and the heavens of the heavens, the earth, and all that is on it.** | 14. Behold, the heavens, and the heavens of the heavens, are be LORD's your God, and the hosts of angels are in them to minister before Him, and the earth, and whatsoever is therein. |
| 15. Only your forefathers the Lord desired, to love them, and He chose their seed after them you, out of all peoples, as it is this day. | 15. Only the LORD had pleasure in your fathers, and because He would love you He has had favor to their children after them, as you, above all the nations upon the face of the earth, at the time of this day. |
| 16. **You shall circumcise the foreskin of your heart, therefore, and be no more stiff-necked.** | 16. **Put away folly, therefore, from your heart, and be not stiff-necked anymore;** |
| 17. For the Lord, your God, is God of gods and the Lord of the lords, the great mighty and awesome God, Who will show no favor, nor will He take a bribe. | 17. for the LORD your God is God, the Judge, and the Monarch of kings, a Great God, mighty and terrible, before whom there is no respect of persons, and who takes no bribe; |
| 18. **He executes the judgment of the orphan and widow, and He loves the stranger, to give him bread and clothing.** | 18. **He does judgment for the orphan and widow, and has compassion upon the stranger to give him food and raiment.** |
| 19. **You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.** | 19. **Have pity then (yourselves) upon the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Mizraim.** |
| 20. **You shall fear the Lord, your God, worship Him, and cleave to Him and swear by His Name.** | 20. **Revere the LORD your God, and worship before Him, and cleave closely to His fear, and swear by His Name.** |
| 21. He is your praise and He is your God, Who did these great and awesome things for you, which your eyes have seen. | 21. He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and mighty acts which you have beheld with your eyes. |
| 22. With seventy souls, Your forefathers descended to Egypt, and now the Lord, your God, has made you as the stars of heaven in abundance. | 22. With seventy souls your fathers went down into Mizraim, and now has the LORD your God set you as the stars of the heavens for multitude. |
|  |  |
| 1. [Therefore] you shall love the Lord, your God, keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments, all the days. | 1. Therefore will you love the LORD your God, and diligently observe His Word, His statutes, and ‎His judgments always.‎ |
| 2. And you shall know this day; that [I speak] not with your children, who did not know and who did not see the chastisement of the Lord, your God, His greatness, His mighty hand, and His outstretched arm, | 2. And know you this day, for (I speak) not with your children who have not known or seen the ‎instruction of the Law of the LORD your God, nor His greatness, nor His mighty hand, nor His ‎uplifted arm,‎ |
| 3. His signs, and His deeds, which He performed in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh, king of Egypt and to his entire land, | 3. or His signs and works which He wrought in Mizraim, on Pharoh king of Mizraim, and on all the ‎inhabitants of his land;‎ |
| 4. and what He did to the army of Egypt, to its steeds, and to its chariots, that He caused the waters of the Red Sea to inundate them when they pursued you, and the Lord destroyed them, to this day, | 4. what He did also to the hosts of Mizraim, to their horses and chariots, when He made the waters ‎of the Red Sea to overwhelm their faces when they followed after you, when the LORD destroyed ‎them unto this day's time;‎ |
| 5. and what He did for you in the desert, until you arrived at this place, | 5. and what He has done to you in the wilderness till the time that you came to this place;‎ |
| 6. and what He did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben, that the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up and their households and their tents, and all the possessions at their feet, in the midst of all Israel. | 6. and what He did unto Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab bar Reuben, when the earth opened ‎her mouth and swallowed them up with the men of their house, and all their substance, in the midst ‎of all Israel:‎ |
| 7. But your eyes, which have seen all the great work of the Lord, which He did. | 7. for with your eyes have you seen all the great work of the LORD which He has wrought.‎ |
| 8. **[Therefore] keep all the commandments that I command you this day, in order that you may be strong and come and possess the land to which you are crossing, to possess it,** | 8. **Therefore will you keep all the precepts which I command you this day, that you may be ‎strengthened, and go in, and inherit the land to possess which you go over;‎** |
| 9. and in order that you may prolong your days on the land that the Lord swore to your forefathers to give to them and to their seed a land flowing with milk and honey. | 9. and that your days may be multiplied upon the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to ‎give it to them and their children; a land whose fruits are rich as milk, and sweet as honey.‎ |

**Reading Assignment:**

**The Torah Anthology: Yalkut Me’Am Lo’Ez - Vol 17: Deuteronomy – III – Gratitude & Discipline**

By: Rabbi Yitzchaq Behar Argueti & Rabbi Shmuel Yerushalmi

Published by: Moznaim Publishing Corp. (New York, 1992)

Vol. 17 – “Deuteronomy – III – Gratitude & Discipline,” pp. 70-82.

**Welcome to the World of P’shat Exegesis**

In order to understand the finished work of the P’shat mode of interpretation of the Torah, one needs to take into account that the P’shat is intended to produce a catechetical output, whereby a question/s is/are raised and an answer/a is/are given using the seven Hermeneutic Laws of R. Hillel and as well as the laws of Hebrew Grammar and Hebrew expression.

The Seven Hermeneutic Laws of R. Hillel are as follows

[cf. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=472&letter=R>]:

**1. Ḳal va-ḥomer:** "Argumentum a minori ad majus" or "a majori ad minus"; corresponding to the scholastic proof a fortiori.

**2. Gezerah shavah:** Argument from analogy. Biblical passages containing synonyms or homonyms are subject, however much they differ in other respects, to identical definitions and applications.

**3. Binyan ab mi-katub eḥad:** Application of a provision found in one passage only to passages which are related to the first in content but do not contain the provision in question.

**4. Binyan ab mi-shene ketubim:** The same as the preceding, except that the provision is generalized from two Biblical passages.

**5. Kelal u-Peraṭ and Peraṭ u-kelal:** Definition of the general by the particular, and of the particular by the general.

**6. Ka-yoẓe bo mi-maḳom aḥer:** Similarity in content to another Scriptural passage.

**7. Dabar ha-lamed me-'inyano:** Interpretation deduced from the context.

**Rashi’s Commentary for: ‎** **D’barim (Deut.) 10:1 - 11:9**‎

**1 At that time** At the end of forty days [which was the first of Elul], God was reconciled with me and said to me, “Hew for yourself [two tablets],” and afterwards, “make for yourself a [wooden] ark.” I, however (see verse 3), made the ark first (Tanchuma 10), because [I considered that] when I would come with the tablets in my hand, where would I put them? This was not the ark that Bezalel made, because the Israelites did not occupy themselves with the Mishkan until after Yom Kippur [which was forty days later], for when Moses descended the mountain, he commanded them regarding the construction of the Mishkan. [Then] Bezalel made the Mishkan first, and only afterwards the ark and the [other] furnishings (Ber. 55a). It follows, therefore, that this was another ark, and that was the one that went out with them to battle, but the one Bezalel made did not go out to battle except in the days of Eli, and they were punished for it, and it [the ark] was captured [by the Philistines].-[Yerushalmi Shekalim 6:1]

**6 And the children of Israel journeyed from the wells of B’nei Ya’akan to Moserah** What is the relevance of this here? Furthermore, did they really journey from the wells of B’nei Ya’akan to Moserah? Was it not from Moserah that they came to the wells of B’nei Ya’akan, as it is said, “And they journeyed from Moseroth [and encamped in B’nei Ya’akan]” (Num. 33:31) ? Moreover, [why does it say:] "there Aaron died"? Did he not die at Mount Hor? If you calculate it, you will find eight stations from Moseroth to Mount Hor! However, [the answer is that] this is also part of the reproof [introduced in Deut. 1:1 and continued through here]: [In effect Moses said,] This, also, you did. When Aaron died on Mount Hor at the end of the forty years and [consequently] the clouds of the Divine Glory departed, you were afraid of the [impending] war with the king of Arad. So you appointed a leader to return to Egypt, and you went back eight stations until B’nei Ya’akan, and from there to Moserah. There, the sons of Levi battled with you. They slew some of you, and you some of them, until they forced you to return by the way you had retreated. From there, you returned to Gudgodah, which is Hor Hagidgad (Num. 33:32).

**7 And from Gudgodah [to Yotvath...]** And at Moserah, you made a great mourning for the death of Aaron, which was the cause of this [your retreat], and it seemed to you as though he had died there (Yerushalmi Sotah 1: 10, Tanchuma, Chukath 18). Moses juxtaposed this reproof with the breaking of the tablets to indicate **that the death of the righteous is as grievous to the Holy One, blessed is He, as the day the tablets were broken** (Lev. Rabbah 2)], and to inform you that when they said, “Let us appoint a leader [and return to Egypt]” (Num. 14:4)—and divorce ourselves from him [Moses], was as grievous for him as was the day on which they made the golden calf.

**8 At that time, the Lord separated [the tribe of Levi]** This is connected to the previous context -

**At that time** During the first year of your departure from Egypt, when you erred [by making] the calf, and the sons of Levi did not thus err, the Omnipresent separated them from you. This verse is juxtaposed to the retreat to B’nei Ya’akan, to tell you that also in this matter, the sons of Levi did not err, but rather remained steadfast in their faith.

**to bear the ark [of the covenant]** [Referring to] the Levites.

**to stand before the Lord, to serve Him, and to bless in His Name** [Referring to] the kohanim, and this is the “raising of the hands” [when they bless the people].-[Arachin 11a]

**9 Therefore, Levi has no portion** since they were separated for the service of the altar, and therefore were not free to plow and sow.

**The Lord is his inheritance** Levi receives his daily fare, designated for him, from the King’s house [i.e., with the gifts due the kohanim, granted them by God].

**10 And I remained on the mountain** to receive the latter tablets. Since Moses does not state above how long he remained on the mountain at this last ascent, he again begins with it.

**as the first days** I.e., those of the first tablets. Just as those days were with [God’s] good will, so were these with good will. But the intermediate [forty days], when I remained to pray for you, were in anger.

**11 And the Lord said to me, [Arise, go, lead before the people]** Although you [Israel] had turned away from following Him, and you had erred with the [golden] calf, He [nonetheless] said to me, “Go, lead the people” (Exod. 32:34).

**12 And now, O Israel** Even though you did all this, His mercy and His affection are still upon you, and with all that you have sinned against Him, He demands nothing of you, except only to fear [the Lord, your God,...]

**Only to fear [the Lord your God,...]** Our Rabbis derived from this verse ["And now... what does... God demand of you"] that everything is in the hands of Heaven except the fear of Heaven (Ber. 33b).

**13 To keep the commandments of the Lord** and this too, is not for nothing, but—for your good—that you should receive a reward.

**14 Behold, to the Lord your God belong** everything, and even so—"Only your forefathers the Lord desired"—out of everything [i.e., the whole universe].

**15 [And He chose...] you** Just as you see yourselves as the most beloved of all peoples, as it is this day.

**16 the foreskin of your heart** Heb. עָרְלַת לְבַבְכֶם the blockage and covering of your heart.

**17 and Lord of the lords** meaning that no lord will be able to deliver you from His hand.

**Who will show no favor** if you cast off His yoke, Nor will He take a bribe—i.e., to appease Him with money.

**18 He executes the judgment of the orphan and widow** [previously, in verse 17,] we had a description of God’s power. Now alongside His power, we find [a description of] His humility (Meg. 31a).

**and He loves the stranger, to give him bread and clothing** and this [provision of bread and clothing] is a matter of great importance, for the very essence of our father Jacob prayed for this [as it says], “And if He will give me bread to eat and a garment to wear” (Gen. 28:20). -[Gen. Rabbah 70:5]

**19 [You shall love the stranger] for you were strangers** Do not reproach others with your own defect.-[B. M. 59b]

**20 You shall fear the Lord, your God and worship Him and cleave to Him.** After you have all these qualities, then you may swear by His Name.

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| **Hakham ben Haggai:** The Hebew word **דָּבַק (Davaq)** being translated as **“cleave”** is first used in the Torah with regards to marriage in Genesis 2:24 to describe the intense union between husband and wife – “Therefore will a man leave his father and his mother, and will cleave unto his wife, and they will be one flesh.” This same word is used in   * Deuteronomy 10:20 – as above in this Torah Seder (Deut. 10:1 – 11:9), and, * Deuteronomy 11:22 – on the next Torah Seder (Deut. 11:10 – 12:19), and * Deuteronomy 13:5(4) – on the following Torah Seder (Deut. 12:20-13:19)     That is, for three consecutive Torah Sedarim, this Hebrew word makes its debut. This word is also used with regards to discipleship in Ruth 1:14. The Midrash Sifre states: ***“And to cleave unto Him*** means that we should cleave to Hakhamim and their disciples.” |

**Chapter 11**

**2 And you shall know this day** Set your attention to know, understand, and accept my reproof.

**that not with your children** am I now speaking, who would be able to say, “We did not know or see all this.”

**6 [That the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed them up...] in the midst of all Israel** Wherever one of them fled, there the earth split under him and swallowed him up; these are the words of Rabbi Judah. Rabbi Nehemiah said to him: But has it not already been stated, “And the earth opened its mouth” (Num. 16:32), and not, “its mouths” [implying that the earth opened up at only one place]? Rabbi Judah said to him: How, then, do you [Reggio ed.] explain: “in the midst of all Israel” [implying it opened up in many areas]? Rabbi Nehemiah replied to him: The earth began to slope as a funnel, and wherever one of them happened to be, he rolled down until he reached the place where the earth was split (Tanchuma Buber, addendum to Korach 4).

**and all the possessions at their feet** Heb. אֲשֶׁר בְּרַגְלֵיהֶם וְאֶת כָּל־הַיְקוּם This is a man’s money, which sets him on his feet. -[San. 110a]

**7 But your eyes, which have seen** This is connected to the verse stated above (verse 2), “That [I speak] not with your children, who did not know...,” but rather with you—"your eyes, which have seen..." [i.e. to you, whose eyes have seen...]

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**Torah Study (part 2)**

By Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian)

# **Morning Prayers**

Before the Shema, we begin our morning prayers with the affirmation that “the study of Torah is equal to all [the mitzvot]”, as we see in the Gemara:

***Shabbath 127a*** *R. Judah b. Shila said in R. Assi’s name in R. Johanan’s name: There are six things, the fruit of which man eats in this world, while the principal remains for him for the world to come, viz.: Hospitality to wayfarers, visiting the sick, meditation in prayer, early attendance at the Beth Hamidrash, rearing one’s sons to the study of the Torah, and judging one’s neighbour in the scale of merit.****[32]*** *But that is not so? For we learnt: These are the things which man performs and enjoys their fruits in this world, while the principal remains for him for the world to come, viz.: honouring one’s parents, the practice of loving deeds,****[33]*** *and making peace between man and his fellow, while the study of the Torah surpasses them all.*

The Mishna tells us something similar:

***Pe’ah 1:1.*** *THE FOLLOWING ARE THE THINGS FOR WHICH NO DEFINITE QUANTITY IS PRESCRIBED:1 THE CORNERS [OF THE FIELD]. FIRST-FRUITS, [THE OFFERINGS BROUGHT] ON APPEARING [BEFORE THE LORD AT THE THREE PILGRIM FESTIVALS]. THE PRACTICE OF LOVINGKINDNESS, AND THE STUDY OF THE TORAH. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE THINGS FOR WHICH A MAN ENJOYS THE FRUITS IN THIS WORLD WHILE THE PRINCIPAL REMAINS FOR HIM IN THE WORLD TO COME: THE HONOURING OF FATHER AND MOTHER, THE PRACTICE OF CHARITY, AND THE MAKING OF PEACE BETWEEN A MAN AND HIS FRIEND; BUT THE STUDY OF THE TORAH IS EQUAL TO THEM ALL.*

How is the study of Torah equivalent to all these other acts of goodness? Because it’s the one thing that teaches and includes all the others. However, the *Lev Shlomo* notes that the antecedents of the phrase “them all” are the various mitzvot which are mentioned previously in the Mishna and not “all the mitzvot of the Torah”. Hence, he refers to the Jerusalem Talmud,[34] which states:

***Pe’ah 1:1*** *All the mitzvot of the Torah are not worth one word of the Torah.*

The prayers are designed so that we should read about the primacy of Torah study early in the prayers. This should awaken us to the importance of our concentration when we come to the recitation of the Shema later on.

We should also note that when we do the Shacharit prayer we say the Torah blessing and read the Aaronic benediction to insure that the blessing is not said in vain. Never the less, it is the recitation of the Shema which fulfills our obligation of Torah study. To those who have more time, this one Torah blessing is sufficient for our study of Torah during the day.

The Gemara teaches:

***Shabbat 10a*** *Rava observed Rav Hamnuna praying at length. He said, ‘You are putting aside eternal life and involving yourself with momentary life!’ And he [Rav Hamnuna] explained, ‘Prayer has its time, and Torah study has its time.’*

Rashi explains: ‘Eternal life’ refers to Torah, whereas prayer focuses on the needs of our ephemeral physical life, such as healing, peace, food.

Halacha follows Rabbi Yochanan’s opinion[35] that Torah scholars’ absolute exemption from prayer is limited to those, like Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, whose “Torah is their profession”, i.e., those who devote all their time exclusively to Torah study. Since they are not engaged in matters of this world, they are exempt from prayer. Other than these rare exceptions, the obligation is binding and is taken for granted in the teachings our Hakhamim.[36]

From this we learn how great is the study of Torah that it is possible to exempt one from the obligation to pray. We can also learn that Torah study draws us near to HaShem in the same way that our prayers draw us near to Him. Thus we can understand that one of the purposes of Torah study is to teach us how to love HaShem our God, as we say in the Shema.

**According To Our Desire**

Our Sages teach that an essential aspect of Torah study, as opposed to any other kind of study, is that a man should occupy himself with the specific aspect of Torah study to which his heart is drawn.

***Avodah Zarah 19a*** *Said Rabbi: A man can learn [well] only that part of the Torah which is his heart’s desire,****[37]*** *for it is said, But whose desire is in the law of the Lord.****[38]***

The above Gemara was written as an explanation of Psalm one:

***Tehillim (Psalms) 1:1-2*** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of HaShem; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

If one learns that which he desires, it will penetrate deeper, change his character traits for the better and awake the desire within him to learn more and more.

Not only is the study of Torah a matter of our heart’s desire, but the performance of the mitzvot of the Torah are also to be performed by the one whose heart is drawn to it. For example, if one has the mitzva of giving to charity ‘A’ or charity ‘B’, then one should give to the charity to which his heart is drawn. He is not only permitted to give to the charity of his desire, but, he is *obligated* to give to the one which he *desires* to give.

For those who desire to become king, Our Sages have taught us the way. The Talmud says that the Rabbanan, those who study Torah, are called kings. Why? Because through the study of Torah, they merit the crown of Torah.

***Gittin 62a*** *As R. Huna and R. Hisda were once sitting together. Geniba began to pass by. Said one to the other, Let us rise before him, since he is a learned man. The other replied; Shall we rise before one who is quarrelsome? At this point he came up to them and said, Peace to you, kings, peace to you, kings. They said to him; Whence do you learn that the Rabbis are called kings? He replied; Because it is written, By me [wisdom]****[39]*** *kings reign.****[40]***

Never the less, we should not see Torah study for the sake of acquiring kingship, but rather, Torah study is knowledge of the Torah for its own sake. This is the function of the Written Torah and the oral Torah. Even if we do not fully understand the words of the Torah, we still fulfill the mitzva of Torah study. As the Sages taught:

***Avodah******Zarah******19a*** *One should always first learn superficially, and later contemplate [what he studied] ... even if one does not fully understand what he has read*.

We have seen in the Shema that one should diligently teach his children. What does this mean? Our Sages answer our question:

***Kiddushin 30a*** *Our Rabbis taught: And thou shalt teach them diligently****[41]*** *[means] that the words of the Torah shall be clear-cut in your mouth, so that if anyone asks you something, you should not shew doubt and then answer him, but [be able to] answer him immediately, for it is said, say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister;****[42]*** *and it is also said, Bind them upon thy fingers; write them upon the table of thine heart;****[43]*** *and it is also said: As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of thy youth;****[44]*** *and it is also said, sharp arrows of the mighty;****[45]*** *and it is also said: Thine arrows are sharp; the peoples fall under thee;****[46]*** *and it is also said: Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, when they speak with their enemies in the gate.****[47]***

**Review Of Past Study**

One who is lax and does not review his studies, thereby forgetting things that he has learned, violates a negative commandment: “Only be careful to protect your soul exceedingly, *lest you forget these things*”.[48] As the Gemara teaches:

***Sanhedrin 99a*** *Rabbi Yehoshua ben Korcha says, ‘Whoever studies Torah and then forgets what he learned resembles a woman who gives birth and then buries her child’.*

So, how often should we revise our Torah studies? Is there in fact a certain amount of time that one is obligated to go over one’s Torah learning?

The truth is that there is a concept of going over a piece of Torah at least four times initially. We see that when HaShem taught Moshe some Torah, Moshe then transmitted this to his brother Aharon, Aharon’s two youngest sons, and the seventy elders, and then the rest of the Bne Israel. Hence, Moshe taught the Torah that HaShem taught him - four times (Eruvin 54).

***Eiruvin 54b*** *Our Rabbis learned: What was the procedure of the instruction in the oral law? Moses learned from the mouth of the Omnipotent. Then Aaron entered and Moses taught him his lesson. Aaron then moved aside and sat down on Moses’ left. Thereupon Aaron’s sons entered and Moses taught them their lesson. His sons then moved aside, Eleazar taking his seat on Moses’ right and Ithamar on Aaron’s left. R. Judah stated: Aaron was always on Moses right. Thereupon the elders entered and Moses taught them their lesson, and when the elders moved aside all the people entered and Moses taught them their lesson. It thus followed that Aaron heard the lesson four times, his sons heard it three times, the elders twice and all the people once. At this stage Moses departed and Aaron taught them his lesson. Then Aaron departed and his sons taught them their lesson. His sons then departed and the elders taught them their lesson. It thus followed that everybody heard the lesson four times. From here R. Eliezer inferred: It is a man’s duty to teach his pupil [his lesson] four times. For this is arrived at a minori ad majus: Aaron who learned from Moses who had it from the Omnipotent had to learn his lesson four times how much more so an ordinary pupil who learns from an ordinary teacher.*

The above is for starters. For more advanced Torah students, there is a minimum of 101 times, as we learn from the Gemara.

***Chagigah 9b*** *Bar He-He said to Hillel: Then shall ye again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.****[49]*** *‘The righteous’ is the same as ‘he that serveth God’; ‘the wicked’ is the same as ‘he that serveth Him not’! — He answered him: He that serveth Him and he that serveth Him not both refer to such as are perfectly righteous; but he that repeated his chapter a hundred times is not to be compared with him who repeated it a hundred and one times. Said [Bar He-He] to him: And because of once he is called ‘he that serveth Him not’? — He answered: Yes, go and learn from the mule-drivers market; ten parasangs for one zuz,****[50]*** *eleven parasangs for two zuz.*

As noted above, there is a difference between one who serves HaShem and one who doesn’t. On this, the Talmud asks “Is this asking an obvious thing as if to say what is the difference between a righteous person and an wicked person?” The Talmud then goes on to state that there is a difference between one who learns a piece of Torah 101 times, and one who learns it only 100 times.

**Torah Study Plus An Occupation**

The Sages of the Mishna have noted that the vast majority of men are not at a level where they can devote themselves fulltime to the study of the Torah. In fact, they note that most men should combine their study of the Torah with an occupation.

***Pirke Avot 2:2.*** *RABBAN GAMALIEL THE SON OF R. JUDAH THE PATRIARCH****[51]*** *SAID: EXCELLENT IS THE STUDY OF THE TORAH TOGETHER WITH A WORLDLY OCCUPATION,****[52]*** *FOR THE ENERGY [TAKEN UP] BY BOTH OF THEM KEEPS SIN OUT OF ONE’S MIND; AND [AS FOR] ALL [STUDY OF THE] TORAH WHERE THERE IS NO WORLDLY OCCUPATION, THE END THEREOF [IS THAT] IT COMES TO NOUGHT****[53]*** *AND BRINGS SIN IN ITS TRAIN;****[54]*** *AND ALL WHO LABOUR WITH THE COMMUNITY, LET THEM LABOUR WITH THEM FOR THE [SAKE OF THE] NAME OF HEAVEN, FOR THE MERIT OF THEIR FATHERS SUSTAINS THEM, AND THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOR EVER; AND AS FOR YOU, [GOD IN SUCH CASE SAYS] I ACCOUNT YOU WORTHY OF MUCH REWARD, AS IF YOU [YOURSELVES] HAD [ACTUALLY] ACCOMPLISHED [IT ALL].*

If the study of Torah is so important, why would our Sages decree that we should have an occupation as well?

The above Mishna teaches us that the primary reason to combine Torah study with an occupation to keep us far from sin. If we do not have any idle time, then we will have fewer opportunities to sin. Most of us would not fully apply themselves to study if we have to do it for the entire day. We would become distracted, weary, and bored. These three would quickly lead us to sin.

It also turns out that if we spent all of our time studying Torah, many of us would never learn important lessons that can only be learned from an occupation. Many Torah laws are applicable only to the world of business. It is only in an understanding of business that we can begin to understand and apply these laws.

It is also worth noting that most of us would require charity if we spent all of our time in the study of Torah. This would not be a good thing. Even if we were able to do without charity, lack of an occupation would lead to poverty and want. Poverty has driven many to sin in order to meet their needs.

In Israel, some of those who study Torah are also in the army. The army thus becomes their occupation.

Finally, most men need an occupation to find fulfillment, to feel productive. There is a lot of satisfaction to be found in completing a task which results in making the world a better place. Whether we build houses, cars, or donuts, most men have an intrinsic need to be productive. An occupation fulfills this need. It is important that we not be locked away in the Bet Midrash[55] all day, but rather that we interact with the world through community service and an occupation.

Thus Torah study combined with an occupation will keep a man far from sin and make most men feel better about their study.

**A Time For Everything**

King Shlomo taught us that HaShem created a special time for everything.

***Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 3:1*** *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

The Talmud looks at King Shlomo’s statement and declares that there is a time to be engaged in Torah study and a time to be engaged in prayer. For certain men, spending time in prayer takes away from their Torah study, which they see as more important. To others, prayer and Torah study compliment one another.

The Talmud records one of this confrontations: “Rava saw Rav Hamenuna praying at length. He commented to his colleague: They neglect “*Chayei Olam*” (eternal life, i.e., Torah study) and occupy themselves with “*Chayei Sha’ah*” (temporal life — prayer)! But Rav Hamenuna did not agree. He held that there is a time for prayer and a time for Torah study”.[56]

Thus we see that our Sages have decreed that the vast majority of men should interrupt their Torah study to pray at the appropriate times.

Our Sages have also decreed that there is a time for the study of the scripture, a time for the study of the Mishna, and a time for the study of the Talmud.

***Kiddushin 30a*** *R. Safra said on the authority of R. Joshua b. Hanania: What is meant by, and thou shalt teach them diligently [we-shinnantem] unto thy children?****[57]*** *Read not we-shinnantem, but we-shillashtem: [you shall divide into three]: one should always divide his years into three: [devoting] a third to Mikra, a third to Mishna, and a third to Talmud. Does one then know how long he will live? — This refers only to days.*

The Talmud, therefore, postulates that periods of study should be apportioned, “one third to Scripture, one third to Mishna, and one third to Talmud [that is, Gemara]”.

As we learned earlier, Our Sages have decreed that most men should combine an occupation with their study of the Torah. They saw a time for both.

The Talmud has a favorable attitude towards working. The ideal is to combine the study of Torah with an occupation. Some statements about work include:

***Kiddushin 29a*** *Whoever does not teach his son a trade, it is as though he taught him to commit robbery.*

***Avot 2:2*** *All Torah that is not combined with work will eventually cease and lead to sin.*

***Avot D’Rabbi Noson 11:1*** *A person should love work and not hate it; for just as the Torah was given with a covenant, so too was work given with a covenant.*

***Avot D’Rabbi Noson 11:1*** *Even God did not let His presence rest upon Israel until they had performed some work.*

***Pesachim 113a*** *Skin a carcass in the street and receive wages and do not say I am an important person and this type of work is beneath my dignity.*

Thus we see that even with Torah study that there is a time for study and a time for an occupation. A time for scripture and a time for Mishna. A time for study and a time for community service. A time for study and a time for prayer and mitzvot. Balancing our time between what is required of us will allow us to serve HaShem with gladness and joy. It will allow us to cleave to HaShem and feel satisfaction in this service.

King Shlomo was a very wise man. There is, indeed, a time for everything.

**Consequences**

Our Sages have taught that all of our actions have consequences. Some are profitable and some are not profitable. If we use our Torah study time correctly, then we build our relationship with HaShem and our Olam HaBa. If we waste our Torah study time, then there are negative consequences, as Our Sages teach:

***Pirke Avot 1:13****. HE [ALSO] USED TO SAY: A NAME THAT IS WIDESPREAD LOSES ITS FAME; ONE WHO DOES NOT ADD [TO HIS KNOWLEDGE] CAUSES [IT] TO CEASE; WHOEVER DOES NOT STUDY****[58]*** *[THE TORAH] DESERVES DEATH; WHOEVER MAKES [UNWORTHY] USE OF THE CROWN****[59]*** *[OF LEARNING] PASSETH AWAY.*

At the time of war against the inhabitants of Jericho, the verse states:

***Yehoshua 5:13*** *And it was when Yehoshua was in Jericho, and he raised his eyes and he saw a man standing opposite him with a drawn sword in his hand. And Yehoshua went over to him and said to him, ‘Are you one of ours or are you one of our enemies?’ And he said, ‘No, for I am an officer of the legions of G-d.’*

The Gemara[60] elaborates on the details of the conversation between the angel of HaShem and Yehoshua: “The angel said to Yehoshua, ‘Yesterday, you missed bringing the afternoon (Tamid) offering. And tonight, you are idle from Torah studies.’ Yehoshua asked, ‘What is the main reason why you came?’ The angel replied, ‘I came for the present’, indicating that the main reason was the laxity in Torah study. Immediately, Yehoshua went to study Torah.”

Although they had been fighting a fierce battle for Jericho, the Jewish soldiers were expected to return to their study of Torah at night, as soon as they could. To refrain from doing so was such a serious offence, that a Divine messenger was sent forth as an officer with a drawn sword, to teach that their failure to engage in Torah study made them vulnerable to be slain in combat.

As important as it is to fight the battles of HaShem, in is even more important that we build our relationship with HaShem with the study of His Torah. The Mishna teaches us that this Torah study is one of the pillars of the world:

***Pirke Avot 1:2*** *The world stands on three things: Torah, service, and acts of loving kindness.*

Our Sages also teach that the study of Torah has additional consequences of its own.

***Pirke Avot 2:7*** *HE USED TO SAY: THE MORE FLESH, THE MORE WORMS; THE MORE PROPERTY, THE MORE ANXIETY; THE MORE WIVES, THE MORE WITCHCRAFT; THE MORE BONDWOMEN THE MORE LEWDNESS; THE MORE SLAVES, THE MORE ROBBERY; [BUT] THE MORE [STUDY OF THE] TORAH, THE MORE LIFE;****[61]*** *THE MORE SITTING DOWN****[62]*** *[TO STUDY AND CONTEMPLATE], THE MORE WISDOM;****[63]*** *THE MORE COUNSEL, THE MORE UNDERSTANDING;****[64]*** *THE MORE RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE MORE PEACE. ONE WHO HAS ACQUIRED UNTO HIMSELF A GOOD NAME, HAS ACQUIRED [IT] FOR HIMSELF; ONE WHO HAS ACQUIRED UNTO HIMSELF WORDS OF TORAH, HAS ACQUIRED FOR HIMSELF THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME.*

Thus we see that a person is built up through his study. In addition he build his Olam HaBa and also he builds this world. These temporal consequences cannot be ignored!

The Gemara also teaches that failure to study Torah will lead to bad things happening. These things are all designed to spur us on to improve our Torah study in order to teach, to perform the mitzvot, and to learn to love HaShem.

***Berachoth 5a*** *If one has the opportunity to study the Torah and does not study it, the Holy One, blessed be He, visits him with ugly and painful sufferings which stir him up. For it is said: I was dumb with silence, I kept silence from the good thing, and my pain was stirred up.****[65]*** *‘The good thing’ refers only to the Torah, as it is said: For I give you good doctrine; forsake ye not My teaching.****[66]***

*Torah Scholars*

This is an excerpt from a letter written by R’ Yitzchak Hutner z”l (1906-1980), rosh yeshiva of Yeshiva Chaim Berlin in Brooklyn, N.Y. In the letter, dated 24 Tevet 5723 [1963] and printed in Pachad Yitzchak: Igrot no. 38, he discusses, among other things, the mitzvah to judge another person favorably. He writes:

All of this refers to an act committed by a person about whom there are arguments to judge his act as lacking merit and arguments to judge it as having merit; then, the mitzva,[67] “With righteousness you shall judge your fellow,” obligates us to weigh the side of merit more heavily based on the quality of the person himself [i.e., one does not have to judge favorably a person known to be wicked]. However, once we know that a clearly bad deed has been done, then we are under no obligation to judge favorably and to assume that the damage has been repaired. This rule has an exception, which is that if the person in question qualifies as a Torah scholar, then we have a halacha,[68] “If you saw a Torah scholar sin in the night-time, do not think anything of him the next day, for he has certainly repented.” This is a novelty with respect to the usual application of the mitzvah of “With righteousness you shall judge your fellow,” i.e., that even after the bad deed has been done, there is an obligation to judge favorably and assume that there has been repentance. This obligation to weigh the side of merit more heavily in this situation applies only to [judging] a Torah scholar. No amount of righteousness creates such an obligation. This means that, though the general obligation to judge a person favorably depends on the righteousness of the person being judged, as explained above, nevertheless, that is only before we know that he did a bad deed. . . But after the bad deed was done, no amount of righteousness that a person has requires us to presume he has repented. Only the fact that there is Torah within him obligates us to judge him favorably.

This is one of the attributes that Torah [study] has over other mitzvot, for being righteous [with regard to mitzvot in general] does not create a presumption of repentance. This may be inferred from the words of Rabbeinu Yonah, who writes,[69] “Delaying repentance is found only among amei ha’aretz, people lacking Torah knowledge”. He did not write that delaying repentance is found among wicked people or among simpletons or among impetuous people. Certainly, the doors of repentance are open to all, but a certainty that repentance has been done exists only vis-a-vis Torah scholars.

**The Goal Of Torah Study**

Why should one study Torah?

On should study Torah because it is *only* through Torah that one can fulfill the one commandment that is the end goal of the entire Torah: The love of HaShem. Why should one study Torah? Because the study brings man close to The Source of all reality, the Creator of the Universe. Why should one study Torah? Because through the study of Torah man attains the highest possible state of human existence, the very purpose for which he was created.

***Pirke Avot 2:14*** *R. ELEAZAR SAID: BE EAGER TO STUDY THE TORAH; AND KNOW WHAT ANSWER THOU SHOULDST GIVE TO THE EPICUREAN,****[70]*** *AND KNOW BEFORE WHOM THOU TOllEST,****[71]*** *AND WHO IS THINE EMPLOYER WHO WILL PAY THEE THE REWARD OF THY LABOUR.*

Further, we learn in order to perform the commandments and to teach them to others, as we shall see in the next section. The Nazarean Codicil[72] agrees with this assessment.

***Matityahu 28:18-20*** *And Yeshua came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, immersing them in the name* (authority) *of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

As we learned earlier, one should study the Torah in order to teach. One should learn Torah in order to perform the mitzvot. The Master’s disciples could not go and teach the world to observe the mitzvot if they had not spent a considerable amount of time studying the Torah and using the teachings of Yeshua to craft the Torah into the world changing device that it is supposed to be. One can not make a talmid, disciple, unless one has learned Torah well enough that he can teach others and lead a life that his talmidim can imitate and they reflect the teachings of their teacher in the world.

Yeshua taught us that we are to follow Him. We are to imitate Him. Without diligent Torah study it is impossible to follow and imitate Him. It is *impossible*! If we are to built into the body of Mashiach,[73] we must imitate the Master. We must demonstrate our mastery of Torah through study, acts of serve, and deeds of lovingkindness.

There is no shortcut to HaShem’s goal for us. There is no shortcut to Mashiach’s goals for us. We must study Torah left, right, and center! There is no other way to reach the ultimate goal: Loving HaShem our G-d!

**Laws** **of Torah Study**

The Rambam begins his discussion of the laws of Torah study (Hilchot Talmud Torah), by telling us that women[74] and minors are exempt from Torah study. However, a man (and not a woman) is obligated to teach his son as we learned at the beginning of this study, in the Shema.

***Hilchot Talmud Torah 1:01*** *Women, slaves and minors are exempt from Talmud Torah. However, regarding a minor, his father is obligated to teach him Torah, as it says: “And you shall teach them to your sons to speak them” (Devarim [Deuteronomy] 11:19) A woman is not obligated to teach her son; because anyone who is obligated to study is obligated to teach.*

We learn from this curious beginning, that the Rambam intended for us to learn that the primary purpose of Torah study is to do the mitzvot[75] and to teach others what we have learned. Torah’s continuation in the world depends on the transmission of Torah from teacher to talmid (student). Without this oral transmission, Torah will cease in this world.

It seems to be a fitting conclusion to this study that we should encourage those who have studied the Torah, to do the mitzvot and to teach what they have learned, in order to Love HaShem our G-d. This is the primary purpose of Torah study, as we see in the Shema:

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:4-9*** *Hear* (Shema)*, O Israel: HaShem our God HaShem is one. 5 And thou shalt love HaShem thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

I am writing this as we count the forty-eighth day of the omer. This is an auspicious time to revise our studies as we prepare for the most momentous day in the history of the world: Shavuot, the day we were given the Torah!

May HaShem bless and magnify our Torah study! Amen V’Amen!

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Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Melachim – Laws of Kings, Chapters 11 & 12, *By Hakham Moshe ben Maimon (the Rambam).*

*Sefer HaOlam* 1937, by Rabbi Avraham Ibn Ezra.

*The Wisdom in the Hebrew Alphabet*, Rabbi Michael L. Munk.

**Ketubim: Psalm** ‎**119:1-24**‎

| **RASHI** | **TARGUM** |
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| 1. **ALEPH.** **Praiseworthy are those** whose way is perfect, **who walk with the law of the Lord.** ‎ | 1. **How happy are** the perfect of way, **who walk in the Torah of the LORD.** |
| 2. Praiseworthy are those who keep His testimonies; who seek Him wholeheartedly. ‎ | 2. How happy those who keep His testimony; with a whole heart they will seek *His instruction*. |
| 3. **Not only have they committed no injustice, they walked in His ways.** | 3. **Truly they have not acted deceitfully; in His *proper*ways they have walked.** |
| 4. You commanded Your precepts, to keep diligently. ‎ | 4. You have given Your commandments, to keep very much. |
| 5. My prayers are that my ways should be established, to keep Your statutes. | 5. *It is good for me* that my ways are straight, to keep Your decrees. |
| 6. Then I shall not be ashamed when I look at all Your commandments. | 6. Then I will not be disappointed when I look to all Your commandments. |
| 7. I shall thank You with an upright heart when I learn the judgments of Your righteousness. ‎ | 7. I will give thanks *in Your presence* with uprightness of heart, when I learn the judgments of Your righteousness/generosity. |
| 8. I shall keep Your statutes; do not forsake me utterly. | 8. I will keep Your decrees; do not abandon me utterly. |
| 9. **BETH.** In what manner should a youth purify his way? To observe according to Your word. | 9. In what way will a youth purify his way? To keep *it* as Your words. |
| 10. With all my heart I searched for You; do not cause me to stray from Your commandments. ‎ | 10. With all my heart I have sought *Your teaching*; do not let me go astray from Your commandments. |
| 11. In my heart I hid Your word, in order that I should not sin against You. ‎ | 11. In my heart I have hidden Your Word, that I might not sin *in Your presence*. |
| 12. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. ‎ | 12. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me Your decrees. |
| 13. With my lips I recited all the judgments of Your mouth. ‎ | 13. With my lips I have recounted all the judgments of Your mouth. |
| 14. With the way of Your testimonies I rejoiced as over all riches. | 14. In the way of Your testimonies I have rejoiced, as at a stroke of luck. |
| 15. Concerning Your precepts I shall converse, and I shall look at Your ways. ‎ | 15. I will speak by Your commandments, and I will behold Your ways. |
| 16. With Your statutes I shall occupy myself; I shall not forget Your speech. ‎ | 16. I will find delight in Your decrees, I will not forget Your utterance. |
| 17. **GIMEL.** Bestow kindness upon Your servant; I shall live and I shall keep Your word. ‎ | 17. Requite Your servant *with good*; I will live, and keep Your words. |
| 18. Uncover my eyes and I shall look at hidden things from Your Torah. | 18. Uncover my eyes, and I will behold wonders from Your Torah. |
| 19. I am a stranger in the land; do not hide Your commandments from me. | 19. I am a dweller in the land; do not *take away* Your commandments from me. |
| 20. My soul is crushed from longing for Your judgments at all times. | 20. My soul has *longed* with longing for Your commandments at all times. |
| 21. You shall rebuke cursed wilful sinners who stray from Your commandments. ‎ | 21. You have rebuked the malicious; cursed are all who stray from Your commandments. |
| 22. Remove from me disgrace and contempt, for I kept Your testimonies. | 22. *Remove* from me humiliation and shame; for I have kept Your testimonies. |
| 23. Although princes sat and talked about me, Your servant conversed about Your statutes. ‎ | 23. For leaders sit speaking against me; Your servant is*engaged in instruction* of Your decrees. |
| 24. Also, Your testimonies are my affairs, men of my counsel.‎ | 24. Also Your testimonies are my delight, *the source* of my counsel. |
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**Rashi’s Commentary of Psalm 119:1-24**

**3 Not only have they committed no injustice** They are praiseworthy if all this is in them.

**they walked in His ways** Although they committed no injustice, their reward is incomplete unless they walked in His ways. And so he says (above 43:15): “Shun evil and do good.” Even though you shun evil, everything is not complete unless you do good. Midrash Aggadah.

**5 My prayers are that my ways should be established** Heb. אחלי . The “aleph” is a radical that is sometimes dropped, like the “aleph” in (Job 13:17): “and my speech (ואחותי) in your ears,” and the “aleph” of (II Kings 4:2): “a jug (אסוך) of oil.”

**My prayers** These prayers of mine are that my ways should be established Likewise (II Kings 5:3): “The supplications (אחלי) for my master should be that he go before the prophet who is in Samaria, etc.” The supplications of those who pray should be that he go before the prophet who is in Samaria, and it is an expression of wishes, souhait in French, as a person says, “If only I were a prophet and a sage.”

**11 In my heart I hid** I did not allow myself to forget it.

**16 I shall occupy myself** Heb. אשתעשע , I shall engage, like (Isa. 17:7): “man shall turn to his Maker”; (Exod. 5:9) “and let them not engage (ישעו) in useless things.”

**17 Bestow kindness upon Your servant** A thing with which I shall be able to live, through the bestowal of your kindness.

**18 hidden things from Your Torah** Hidden things in it, which are not explained therein.

**(from Your Torah)** Wonders from the explanations of your Torah which are not explained therein.

**19 I am a stranger in the land** for a short time.

**do not hide Your commandments from me** The hidden ones, so that I should be able to fulfill them, for if not now, when?

**20 is crushed** Heb. גרסה . My soul breaks because of longing, as (Lev. 2:14): “crushed kernels (גרשׂ) of the fresh ears.” Menachem (p. 183), however, associated “from longing” (לתאבה) with (Amos 6:8) “I destroy (מתאב) the pride of Jacob,” and both are an expression of breaking.

**22 Remove from me** Heb. גל , an expression of rolling, like (Gen. 29:10): “and he rolled (ויגל) the stone.”

**23 talked about me** Although the kings of the heathens scorn me because I engage in the Torah.

**Meditation from the Psalms**

**Psalm 119:1-24**

**By: H.Em. Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David**

The life of King David was devoted to the attainment of self-perfection in the service of G-d. Every action and every step in David’s life was calculated to bring him closer to this lofty goal. In this psalm of one hundred seventy-six verses, the lengthiest in the Book of Tehillim, David painstakingly charts the progressive stage of his determined ascent toward spiritual perfection. The psalm follows the sequence of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet - eight verses begin with א, aleph, the next eight with ב, beit, and so on — because this psalm embodies an orderly program for achieving personal perfection. The Talmud[[4]](#footnote-4) refers to this psalm as תמניא אפין, the repetition of eight. Whereas the number seven symbolizes the power of This World, which was created in seven days, eight symbolizes release from the desires of the mundane work which distract a person from his spiritual aspirations.[[5]](#footnote-5)

In these verses David describes the many obstacles and danger that confronted him in his lifetime. Yet his spirit refused to be overwhelmed by sorrow, for he embraced the fount of joy, the Torah. As David followed the guiding light of G-d’s Torah, his lips burst forth in these ecstatic verses of praise for G-d’s salvation. This psalm opens with the statement: Praiseworthy are those whose way is wholesome, who walk with the Torah of HaShem. It goes on to cite scores of examples of how David strived to walk with G-d. In conclusion David declares: ‘I have attempted to follow You all my life HaShem. If I have failed, I beseech You not to abandon me! I have strayed like a lost sheep; seek out Your servant, I have not forgotten Your commandments’.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Tanach. Despite its inspiring content and exquisite form, Psalm 119 is one of the “orphan psalms”; in other words, unlike many other chapters in the Book of Psalms that begin with phrases like “A Song of David”, the author of Psalm 119 did not incorporate his name into the text of the chapter. Never the less, *the Rabbis of the Talmud and Midrash, followed by Rashi and Radak,[[7]](#footnote-7) maintain that Psalm 119 was composed by King David*. [[8]](#footnote-8) By contrast, Ibn Ezra[[9]](#footnote-9) suggests that this Psalm may actually have been written by an unknown individual who lived during the Babylonian Exile. Some even attribute the Psalm to Ezra the Scribe.

Our chapter of Psalms focuses on the Torah and the observance of the mitzvot. One verse, in particular, stands out in our first portion:

***Tehillim (Psalms) 119:10*** *With my whole heart have I sought Thee; O let me not err from Thy commandments* (mitzvoteca - מִמִּצְו‍ֹתֶיךָ)*.*

This pasuk portrays the Jewish soul’s longing to do the will of HaShem, to perform the mitzvot. Along with the various laws that were commanded to the Jewish people, such as the commandment to wear Tefillin and to rest on Shabbat, came an oral explanation that explained exactly what the mitzva entails. This is called the Oral Torah, as it was meant to remain as an “oral tradition” and passed on from parent to child, and teacher to student, throughout the generations. Some 1700 years ago, when the harsh Roman persecutions threatened the transmission, the Oral Torah was written down to form the Talmud.

**My goal is to show that the scripture assumes that there is an oral law, and that without the oral law, the scriptures are incomplete.**

The Jewish Encyclopedia tells us that Rabbinic authority, the ability to make oral law, was invested in men, and that this authority was validated by Yeshua:

*It is known that from the beginning of the third century before the common era, rabbinical authorization by the patriarch consisted in the bestowal of authority and power to teach, to judge, and to grant permission regarding “the forbidden first-born among animals”.[[10]](#footnote-10) But it is obvious that this is no longer the original form of rabbinical authorization. Far more significant and expressive of the idea of Rabbinical Authority are the words used by Yeshua when ordaining**Peter as chief**apostle, or his disciples as his successors, and undoubtedly taken from pharisaic usage: “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”.[[11]](#footnote-11) This corresponds exactly with what Josephus, or rather his source, tells of the Pharisees in the time of Queen Alexandra: “They were the real administrators of the public affairs; they removed and readmitted whom they pleased; they bound and loosed [things] at their pleasure”. The terms “bind” and “loose”, employed by the Rabbis in their legal terminology, point indeed to a sort of supernatural power claimed by the Pharisees for their prohibitory or permissory decrees, probably because they could place both men and things under the ban, or “Cherem”.[[12]](#footnote-12)*

The greatest Torah scholars (Hakhamim) were empowered with the ability to apply the principles of Torah, both oral and written, and utilizing these principles as new cases presented themselves, or where confusion arose regarding existing law. Despite the attributes of the judges who possessed the combination of intellectual prowess with superior personal moral standards, the possibility of an error remained. In such cases the question would arise: Do the sages retain their authority in the event that they are mistaken?

The textual basis for the question revolves around the Torah statement:

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:8-12*** *If there arises a matter too hard for you in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between plague and plague, being matters of controversy inside your gates, then shall you arise, and get to the place which HaShem your G-d shall choose. And you shall come to the priests the Levites, and to the judge who shall be in those days, and inquire. And they shall declare to you the sentence of judgment. And you shall do according to the sentence, which they of that place which HaShem shall choose shall declare to you. And you shall take care to do according to all that they inform you. According to the sentence of the Torah which they shall teach you, and according to the judgment which they shall tell you, you shall do; you shall not deviate from the sentence which they shall declare to you, to the right hand, nor to the left. And the man who will act presumptuously, and will not listen to the priest who stands to minister there before HaShem your G-d, or to the judge, that man shall die; and you shall put away the evil from Israel.*

The same idea is found in the Midrash Shir HaShirim:

***Midrash Rabbah - The Song of Songs 1:18*** *You shall not turn aside from the sentence which they shall declare to you to the right hand nor to the left. If they tell you that the right hand is right and the left hand left, listen to them, and even if they shall tell you that the right hand is left and the left hand right.*

This concept of absolute authority of the sages is quite disturbing especially in cases where is appears that they are mistaken. The Jerusalem Talmud records a dissenting opinion:

***Yerushalmi Horiot 2b*** *Is it possible that if they told you right is left and left is right you would have to listen to them? The verse teaches we must follow [the sages] “left and right” only when they tell you right is right, and left is left.*

This approach is comforting, for the individual is not obligated to follow the sages astray, yet the normative law follows the approach of Rashi.

**Rashi** in the name of the Sifri: Even if they tell you that what you think is the right is really the left or visa versa, and it goes without saying that you must listen if they inform you that this is right and this is left [and you do not know otherwise].

**Nachmanides[[13]](#footnote-13)** elaborates: Even when you are convinced that they are in error, and the matter is as clear to you as the difference between your right hand and your left, do as they tell you. And do not say to yourself, “How can I eat this food when it is clearly fat [a forbidden substance], or how can I execute this clearly innocent person?” Rather say to yourself, **“My Master who commanded me to observe His commandments, instructed me to observe them as the Hakhamim dictate.”**

Thus, according to this doctrine, we are commanded to follow what the Hakhamim tell us with blind faith, even if we know that what they are telling us is clearly wrong. But how can the Torah command us to do such a thing?

Nachmanides explains that the injunction to follow the rulings of the Sanhedrin (Hakhamim) even when it is clear to you that they are mistaken has no relation to blind faith. Mistaken or not, what the Sanhedrin (Hakhamim) decides determines the shape that the reality in the Torah adopts.

In passing, Nachmanides refers to a famous argument between two of the leading sages of the era of the Mishna. Rabbi Yehoshua and Rabban Gamliel had arrived at different conclusions regarding the dates of Rosh HaShanah. This argument had serious ramifications including what day would be observed as the Day of Atonement – Yom HaKippurim:

***Rosh Hashanah 25a*** *Thereupon Rabban Gamaliel sent for him saying, “I enjoin upon you to appear before me with your staff and your money on the day which according to your reckoning should be the Day of Atonement.” ... He [Rabb Yehoshua] then went to Rabbi Dosa ben Harkinas, who said to him: “If we call in question [the decisions of] the House of Rabban Gamaliel, we must call in question the decisions of every House of Judgment which has existed since the days of Moses up to the present time. For it says, then went up Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel. Why were not the names of the elders mentioned? To show that every group of three which has acted as a House of Judgment over Israel is on a level with the House of Moses.” He [Rabbi Yehoshua] thereupon took his staff and his money and went to Yavneh to Rabban Gamaliel on the day on which the Day of Atonement fell according to his reckoning. Rabban Gamaliel rose and kissed him on his head and said to him: “Come in peace, my teacher and my disciple — my teacher in wisdom and my disciple because you have accepted my decision.”*

Nachmanides[[14]](#footnote-14) explains the perspective of Rabbi Yehoshua. Even though Rabbi Yehoshua knew that his position was correct, he accepted the court’s decision.

One issue that is intriguing about this case is the fact that the Sanhedrin was no longer functioning. The Temple had been destroyed, and as the text had stated, now the court resided in Yavneh. This would explain the hesitation of Rabbi Yehoshua to acquiesce to the position of the court, and why he was not concerned with the label of “rebellious elder”, whose punishment is death.

Now we understand the argument put forward by Rabbi Dosa. The rejection of this court in Yavneh is tantamount to the rejection of every court which has ever existed; it will produce the same result, religious anarchy.

I believe that one of the most telling arguments for the requirement of an oral law, other than the command of Torah, is the tradition that gives us the pronunciation of the words of the Torah. The words written in a Torah scroll are written without any vowel markings. This means that any word in the Torah has potentially many meanings, depending on what vowels are applied to the consonants to form the sounds of the word. We have a tradition which teaches us how the words are pronounced. This tradition, found in the oral law, defines the meaning of each word in the Torah! Thus, all the Christian and Jewish translations of the Torah rely on this tradition for their translations. Without this tradition it would be impossible to make a translation of the Torah. Without this tradition there would be anarchy in the translations and in the pronunciation of the words. Without this tradition it would be impossible to know what HaShem is telling us through His Torah.

Each word, in the Torah, can be read and made to mean almost anything, depending on the vowels one introduces. The first verse in chapter two of Genesis reads: “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished.” It can also be read as: “Thus the heavens and the earth were destroyed.” Thus, we see that without an oral tradition to teach us the vowels and the sounds of the words, it would be impossible for us to understand their meaning.

Our Sages teach us that each Hebrew letter has a particular meaning such that an unfamiliar word can be understood by adding together the meanings of the letters. With this background it is instructive to note that the letters of the *mishna* (vban)[[15]](#footnote-15) can be rearranged to form the word *neshama* - vnab.[[16]](#footnote-16) Thus we learn that the Mishna is the soul of the Written Torah. As the soul is intangible, so the Mishna is oral and intangible.

The *neshama*, one of the higher levels of the soul, presents an interesting understanding when we take the Hebrew letters that compose the word ‘neshama’, and rearrange the same letters, as you can see from the following chart. These relationships teach us that there is much more to the neshama than meets the eye. The neshama is connected with the higher world in the same way that *HaShemen*, *Mishna*, *Shemone*, and *Menashe* are all connected to the higher world. All of which have the numerical value of 395, which is that of the 5th word in the Torah, *HaShamayim* (the heavens).

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| ***HaShemen*** | השמן | is Hebrew word for “the oil”. To extract the oil, the olive must be squeezed. The light and heat, found in the oil, remains hidden till it is ignited. Oil is a substance that, when intermingled with other liquids, does not become absorbed. The oil is the energy which powers the flame. If you rearrange the letters it spells: |
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| ***Neshama*** | נשמה | which is the body’s connection to the higher world. Oil represents and is associated with wisdom. Tekoa, a city south of Bethlehem, was renowned for its olive oil. The Talmud says that because the residents of Tekoa “were accustomed to olive oil, wisdom was found in them”.[[17]](#footnote-17) The neshama, like the oil, is hidden within the body, potential light that only shines when “extracted” and “ignited”. Just as oil is a substance that, when intermingled with other liquids, does not become absorbed, the neshama does not lose its identity when joined to the body – it always has a separate identity. In the wisdom of Kabbalah, the soul equals our energy. It’s our energy to do things and to get through things. If you rearrange these letters again, they spell |
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| ***Mishna*** | משנה | which is the essence of the Torah Shebalpeh, the Oral Torah. The Mishna, is the Oral Law that is hidden in the Written Law.[[18]](#footnote-18) To extract the soul and reveal it, the body must be “squeezed” also so-to-speak, which is the role of the Mishna and mitzvot. The Mishna is the connection between this world and the higher world. It is through the Torah that HaShem forged His eternal covenant with the Jewish nation. Studying Mishna has the capacity to cleanse and rectify the soul. Thus, it is Torah study, particularly Mishna, which symbolizes the soul’s connections to the foundations of Jewish history, and the eternal spiritual bond with HaShem. If we rearrange the letters they spell |
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| ***Shemona*** | שמנה | which is the number eight. Eight is the connection between the natural world of seven (seven colors in the rainbow and notes in music spectrum) and the higher mystical worlds. The eighth day is always miraculous, that is why a brit takes place on the eighth day as we help the body to transcend this world. That is also why Chanukah is eight days, commemorated with the burning of oil that has concealed within it the Ohr HaGanuz.[[19]](#footnote-19) That is why the Chanukah miracle relates to the oil. This is the feast that transcends this world. As a prism brings out the hidden colors of the light, so also is eighth hidden in the seventh. That is why we are given a taste of the world to come in our celebration of Shabbat. Shemone is the power, or goal, of the covenant. If you rearrange the letters again, they spell |
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| ***Menashe*** | מנשה | was Yosef HaTzadik’s son who provided the light of Torah in Egypt. Yosef’s light was hidden in Egypt and was waiting for the pressure of his brothers to reveal it. Just as oil is a substance that, when intermingled with other liquids, does not become absorbed, so also did Menashe become intermingled with the Egyptians, yet he did not become assimilated. Menashe in one of the blessing powers that we bestow on our children every Friday evening. |

Mashiach is the written Torah, with the oral Torah being His soul. That is why it says that:

***Yochanan (John) 1:1*** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with G-d, and the Word was G-d.*

This is the intangible part, the soul. The tangible part, the body is defined in:

***Yochanan (John) 1:14*** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

The Mishna is divided into six orders (sedarim), each order into tractates (massekhtot), and each tractate into chapters (peraqim). The six orders are: **Zera’im, Mo’ed, Nashim, Neziqin, Qodashim**, and **Tohorot**.

My teacher has likened the oral law to the decisions rendered by secular courts. These decisions become the precedents upon which future judgments are rendered.

Our halachic incisors who state *new* halachot in response to new situations are not adding to the Torah any more than state legislators are adding to the physical law when they make a law requiring certain safety standards concerning, for example, toxic waste dumps. The laws didn’t exist 100 years ago because the situation didn’t exist 100 years ago. But the fact that such laws would have to be made would have been known 100 (and more) years ago.

The first oral law was given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The oral command was:

***Bereshit (Genesis) 2:15-17*** *HaShem took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And HaShem commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

Not only was this an *oral* command, but it also was a *chok*, a command without a reason, and for which we can not even deduce a reason.[[20]](#footnote-20) This first oral command declared all fruit to be kosher except the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Consider that ALL of the commands given By HaShem prior to Sinai, were all oral. This includes the command for the first Passover, the command to build Noah’s ark, and all of the commands kept by Abraham:

***Bereshit (Genesis) 26:5*** *Because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws.”*

Here we have Abraham keeping all of HaShem’s laws, more than four hundred years before the written Torah was given!

To emphasize the requirement that we must have an oral law, I would like to give a few examples to illustrate that the Torah can not stand alone. There can be no *sola scriptura*!

HaShem has forbidden us to work on Shabbat:

***Shemot (Exodus) 20:9*** *Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work:10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of HaShem thy G-d: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:11 For in six days HaShem made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore HaShem blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

The problem, of course, is that the Torah does NOT define what *work* is. So, without an oral law, we do not know whether we can mow the lawn or tend our garden. Yet, with an oral law, we know that both are forbidden. The labors the Mishna[[21]](#footnote-21) says were used to construct the Mishkan, these are defined as ‘work’, and these are the thirty-nine labors:

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| **The Thirty-nine Melachot (works) Forbidden on Shabbat** | |
| 1. Sowing  2. Plowing  3. Reaping  4. Binding sheaves  5. Threshing  6. Winnowing  7. Selecting  8. Grinding  9. Sifting  10. Kneading  11. Baking  12. Shearing wool  13. Washing wool  14. Beating wool  15. Dyeing wool  16. Spinning  17. Weaving  18. Making two loops  19. Weaving two threads  20. Separating two threads | 21. Tying  22. Untying  23. Sewing two stitches  24. Tearing  25. Trapping  26. Slaughtering  27. Flaying  28. Salting meat  29. Curing hide  30. Scraping hide  31. Cutting hide up  32. Writing two letters  33. Erasing two letters  34. Building  35. Tearing a building down  36. Extinguishing a fire  37. Kindling a fire  38. Hitting with a hammer  39. Transferring between domains |

Thus, we see that it is impossible to fulfill the requirements of the Torah, regarding work on the Sabbath, without the oral law.

In the Prophets we see that HaShem acknowledges the oral law and explicitly restates it as a command:

***Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 17:21*** *Thus saith HaShem; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; 22 Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.*

To understand this pasuk, please recall that Yirmeyahu was written about 800 years AFTER the Torah was given on Mt. Sinai. This means that HaShem could have included this command in the written Torah. The question is, why did He give it orally? The answer is found in the understanding that EVERY one of the Torah’s 613 commands require the oral law to teach us HOW to obey the written command. Thus, the Torah tells us not to work on Shabbat and the oral law comes to tell us HOW not to work.

The Torah never commands us not to buy or sell on the Sabbath; however, it was obviously a prohibition in:

***Ezra-Nehemiah (Nehemiah) 13:15-22*** *In those days I saw men in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. Men from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah. I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this wicked thing you are doing--desecrating the Sabbath day? Didn’t your forefathers do the same things, so that our HaShem brought all this calamity upon us and upon this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath.” When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day. Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. But I warned them and said, “Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will lay hands on you.” From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath. Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember me for this also, O my G-d, and show mercy to me according to your great love.*

**Kosher Slaughter**

The existence of the oral tradition is alluded to in the Written Law in numerous places. For example: The Torah says: (Deut. 12:20) “When HaShem expands your borders as He promised you, and your natural desire to eat meat asserts itself, so that you say; ‘I wish to eat meat’, you may eat as much meat as you wish, you need only slaughter your cattle and small animals, in the manner I have commanded you.” Nowhere in the Written Torah is such a manner described. So, what is the manner in which we are supposed to slaughter cattle?

Rashi puts it this way: **you may slaughter... as I have commanded you** We learn [from here] that there is a commandment regarding slaughtering, how one must slaughter. [Since this commandment is not written in the Torah we deduce that] these are the laws of ritual slaughtering given orally to Moses on [Mount] Sinai.[[22]](#footnote-22)

Though the laws of slaughtering cattle are not explained in the Written Torah, they are described in detail in the Oral Law. The written law can be understood ONLY in conjunction with the oral law. The Torah says:

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 12:21*** *If the place where HaShem your HaShem chooses to put his Name is too far away from you, you may slaughter animals, as I commanded you, from the herds and flocks HaShem has given you, as I have commanded you, and in your own towns you may eat as much of them as you want.*

‘You may slaughter <the animal> as I commanded you’. **Nowhere in the Torah do we find HaShem commanding Moshe about the laws of Shechita (slaughter).**

We will be studying Psalms chapter 119 for six weeks. This will help us to appreciate the Torah and the oral Torah.

**Ashlamatah:** ‎**1 Kings 8:9-18**‎‎

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| --- | --- |
| **Rashi** | **Targum** |
| 1. ¶ Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the princes of the **‎**fathers' (houses) of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem; to bring up the ark of **‎**the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. **‎‎** | 1. ¶ Then Solomon gathered the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chiefs of the ‎clans for the sons of Israel, unto King Solomon to Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the covenant ‎of the LORD from the City of David, that is Zion. |
| 2. And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month **‎**Ethanim, which (is) the seventh month. **‎** | 2. And all the men of Israel were gathered unto ‎King Solomon in the month that the ancients called the first month (the festival) and now it is the ‎seventh month. |
| 3. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. **‎** | 3. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests bore the ark. |
| 4. And they brought up the ark of the Lord, and the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy vessels **‎**which (were) in the tabernacle, and the priests and the Levites did bring them up. | 4. And they ‎brought up the ark of the Lord and the tent of the appointed time, and all the holy vessels that ‎were in the tent; and the priests and the Levites brought them up. |
| 5. And King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, (were) with **‎**him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be counted nor numbered for **‎**multitude. | 5. And King Solomon and all ‎the assembly of Israel who were joined with him were standing with him before the ark, ‎sacrificing sheep and oxen which could not be counted and could not be numbered for ‎greatness. |
| 6. And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the Sanctuary of **‎**the house, to the most holy (place), under the wings of the cherubim. | 6. And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, to the ‎house of atonements that was prepared for it, in the midst of the houses to the holy of holies, to ‎beneath the wings of the cherubim. |
| 7. For the cherubim spread forth (their) wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered **‎**the ark and the staves thereof above. **‎** | 7. For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ‎ark, and the cherubim made a covering over the ark and over its poles from above. |
| 8. And the staves were so long that the ends of the staves were seen from the holy (place) before the **‎**Sanctuary, and they were not seen without; and they are there unto this day. **‎** | 8. And so ‎long were the poles that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place facing the house of ‎atonements- and were not seen outside; and they are there unto this day. |
| 9. There was nothing in **the ark** save **the two tablets of stone** which Moses put there at Horeb, when **‎**the Lord made (a covenant) with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. **‎** | 9. In **the ark** lay **the two ‎tablets of stones** that Moses deposited there on Horeb upon which were written the ten words of ‎the covenant that the LORD cut with the sons of Israel in their going forth from the land of Egypt. ‎ |
| 10. And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy (place), and the cloud filled the **‎**house of the Lord. | 10. And when the priests went forth from the holy place, a dense cloud filled the house of the ‎sanctuary of the LORD. |
| 11. And the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled **‎**the house of the Lord. **{P}** | 11. And the priests were not able to stand to minister from before the ‎cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the sanctuary of the ‎ LORD. **{P}** |
| 12. ¶ Then Solomon said, "The Lord said that He would dwell in the thick darkness. | 12. ¶ Then Solomon said: “The LORD has chosen to make His Shekinah reside in Jerusalem. |
| 13. I have surely built You a house to dwell in; a settled place for You to dwell in forever." | 13. Indeed I have built the house of the sanctuary before You, a place prepared for the house of ‎Your Shekinah forever." |
| 14. And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel, and all the congregation of Israel stood. | 14. And the king turned his face and blessed all the assembly of Israel, ‎and all the assembly of Israel was standing. |
| 15. And he said, "Blessed (be) the Lord, the God of Israel Who spoke with His mouth unto David my father, and has fulfilled it with His hand, saying. | 15. And he said: "Blessed be the LORD the God of ‎Israel who decreed by his Memra with David my father and by his good pleasure fulfilled it, ‎saying: |
| 16. 'Since the day that I brought forth My people Israel out of Egypt, I **chose** no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house, that My name might be therein; but I **chose**David to be over My people Israel.' | 16. ‘From the day that I brought forth my people Israel from Egypt I did not choose a ‎city from all the tribes of Israel to build the house to make My Shekinah reside there, and I ‎chose David to be the king over My people Israel.’ |
| 17. And it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. | 17. And it was in the heart of David my ‎father to build the house to the name of the LORD the God of Israel. |
| 18. And the Lord said to David my father, 'Since it was in your heart to build a house unto My name, you did well that it was in your heart. | 18. And the LORD said to ‎David my father: ‘Inasmuch as it was with your heart to build the house to My name, you have ‎done well for it was with your heart. |
| 19. Nevertheless, you shall not build the house; but your son that shall come forth out of your loins, he shall build the house for My name.' | 19. Only you will not build the house, but a son whom you ‎will beget - he will build the house to My name.’ |
| 20. And the Lord has established His word that He spoke, and I have risen up in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord spoke, and have built a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. | 20. And the LORD fulfilled his words that he ‎spoke, and I rose up in the place of David my father and sat upon the throne of the kingdom of ‎Israel as the LORD spoke, and I built the house to the name of the LORD the God of Israel. |
| 21. And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein (is) the covenant of the Lord, which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt." **{S}** | 21. And ‎I made a place there prepared for the ark in which lay the two tablets of stone upon which was ‎the covenant of the LORD that he cut with our fathers when he brought them out from the land ‎of Egypt. **{S}** |
| 22. And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands towards heaven. | 22. And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD opposite all the assembly of ‎Israel, and he spread out his hands in prayer toward the heavens. |
| 23. And he said, "Lord God of Israel, (there is) no God like you, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, Who keeps covenant and mercy with Your servants that walk before You with all their heart. | 23. And he said: "LORD God of ‎Israel, there is none except You. You are the God whose Shekinah is in the heavens above and ‎You are powerful on the earth below, keeping the covenant and fidelity to Your servants who ‎walk before You in all their heart, |
| 24. Who has kept with Your servant David my father that which You spoke to him, and You spoke with Your mouth, and fulfilled it with Your hand, as (it is) this day. | 24. You who have kept for Your servant David my father what ‎You spoke to him and You decreed by Your Memra and by Your good pleasure You have ‎fulfilled it this day. |
| 25. And now, Lord, the God of Israel, keep with Your servant, David my father, that which You spoke to him, saying, 'There shall not fail you a man before Me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children take heed to their way, to walk before Me as you have walked before Me.' | 25. And now LORD God of Israel, keep for Your servant David my father what ‎You spoke to him, saying: ‘There will not be cut off to you a man before me sitting upon the ‎throne of the kingdom of Israel, if only our sons keep their ways to walk before Me as you have ‎walked before Me.’ |
| 26. And now, God of Israel, please let Your word come true, which You spoke to Your servant David, my father. | 26. And now God of Israel, let Your words that You spoke to David my father ‎be established. |
| 27. But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You; much less this temple that I have erected. | 27. For who hoped and who thought in truth? The LORD has chosen to make His ‎Shekinah reside in the midst of the sons of men who are dwelling upon the earth. Behold the ‎heavens and the heavens of the heavens cannot contain Your glory; so much the less this house ‎that I have built. |
| 28. And You shall turn toward Your servant's prayer and to his supplication, O Lord my God: to hearken to the song and to the prayer that Your servant is praying before You today. | 28. And may You attend to the prayer of Your servant and to his petition, LORD my God, to receive the prayer and the ‎petitions that Your servant is praying before You this day, |
| 29. That Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place which You said, 'My Name will be there;' to listen to the prayer that Your servant will pray toward this place. | 29. that good pleasure he before You to ‎be a guard over this house night and day, to the place that You said: ‘Let my name be there,’ to ‎receive the prayer that Your servant is praying toward this place. |
| 30. And You shall listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel that they will pray toward this place; and You shall hear in heaven, Your abode, and You shall hear and forgive. | 30. And may You receive» ‎the petition of Your servant and Your people Israel that they will pray toward this place, and ‎You will receive from the place of the house ot Your Shekinah, from the heavens; and You will ‎receive their prayers and forgive their sins. |
| 31. If a man sins against his neighbor, and an oath be exacted of him to cause him to swear, and he come and swear before Your altar in this house. | 31. In case a man sins against his neighbour, and he ‎forces him to swear an oath, and he comes, he swears it before Your altar in this house, |
| 32. And You shall hear in heaven, and do, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness. | 32. may You receive from the heavens and act and judge Your servants, to condemn the guilty, to give ‎his way on his head, and to acquit the righteous/generous, to give to him according to his righteousness / generosity. |
| 33. When Your people Israel are struck down before the enemy, because they sin against You, and shall turn again to You, and praise Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this house. | 33. When your people Israel be struck down before their enemies because they are sinning ‎before You and they return to Your service and confess Your name and pray and make ‎petition from before You in this house, |
| 34. And You shall hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers. **{S}** | 34. may You receive from the heavens and forgive the ‎sins of Your people Israel and bring them back to the land that you gave to their fathers. **{S}** |
| 35. When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against You; and they shall pray toward this place and praise Your name, and repent of their sin, so that You may answer them. | 35. When the heavens are closed up and there will not be rain because they will sin before You, ‎and they pray toward this place and confess Your name and turn from their sins because You ‎will receive their prayers |
| 36. And You shall hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, and of Your people Israel, when You teach them the good way wherein they should walk; and give rain upon Your land, which You have given to Your people for an inheritance. **{S}** | 36. may You receive from the heavens and forgive the sins of Your ‎servant and Your people Israel, for You will teach them the right way in which they will walk ‎and You will give rain upon Your land that You have given to Your people for an inheritance. **{S}** |
| 37. If there be famine in the land, if there be pestilence, blasting, yellowing, locust, (or) if there be destroying locusts; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities, whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness (there be). | 37. ‎If there be famine in the land, if there be pestilence, if there be blight and mildew, locust, ‎caterpillar, if their enemies attack them in the land of their cities, whatever affliction and ‎whatever sickness; |
| 38. Any prayer, any supplication, which will be (made) by any man, (or) by all Your people Israel, who shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house. | 38. whatever prayer, whatever petition that there may be to any man, to all ‎Your people Israel, each man knowing the afflictions of his heart, and he will stretch forth his ‎hands in prayer toward this house, |
| 39. And You shall hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart You know, for You, alone, know the hearts of all the children of men. | 39. then may You receive from the heavens from the place of ‎the house of Your Shekinah, and forgive their sins and act on their petitions and give to each ‎according to all his ways, for his heart is revealed before You, for You are the one, there is none ‎besides You, before You only are the hearts of all the sons of men revealed. |
| 40. That they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers. | 40. in order ‎ that they might fear from before You all the days that they are living upon the face of the land ‎that You have given to our fathers. |
| 41. And also to the stranger, who (is) not of Your people Israel, but will come from a far country for the sake of Your Name. | 41. And also one from a son of the peoples that are not from ‎Your people Israel and he comes from a far-off land on account of your name, |
| 42. For they shall hear of Your great Name, and of Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm, and he will come and pray toward this house. | 42. for they will ‎hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand and Your raised-up arm, and he will come and ‎pray towards this house, |
| 43. You shall hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calls You for, that all peoples of the earth may know Your Name, to fear You, as (do) Your people Israel, and that they may know that Your Name is called upon this house that I have built. | 43. may You receive from the heavens, from the place of the house of ‎your Shekinah and act according to all that the son of the Gentiles will pray before You, in ‎order that all the nations of the earth may know Your name to fear before You like Your people ‎Israel and to know that Your name is called upon this house that I have built. |
| 44. If Your people go out to battle against their enemy, by what way You send them, and pray to the Lord toward the city that You have chosen, and (toward) the house that I have built for Your name. | 44. If Your people ‎will go forth to wage battle against their enemies on the way that You will send them and ‎they pray before the LORD toward the way of the city that You have chosen and the house that ‎I built for Your name, |
| 45. And you shall hear in heaven their prayer and supplication, and maintain their cause. | 45. may You receive from the heavens their prayers and their petitions, ‎and may You avenge their humiliations |
| 46. If they sin against You, for (there is) no man who does not sin, and You will be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, and their captors will carry them away captive to the land of the enemy, far or near. | 46. If they sin before You (for there is no man who ‎does not commit sin), and Your anger take effect against them, and You give them before their ‎enemies, and their captors take them captive to the land of their enemies whether far-off or ‎near, |
| 47. And they shall bethink themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness.' | 47. and they turn to their hearts in the land where they have been taken captive, and they ‎turn and ask from before You in the land of their captors, saying: ‘We have sinned, and we been ‎stupid, we have offended,' |
| 48. And they shall return to You with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land, which You gave to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your Name. | 48. and they turn to Your service with all their heart and with all ‎their soul in the land of their enemies who captured them, and they pray before You toward the ‎way of their land that You have given to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the ‎house that I built for Your name, |
| 49. And you shall hear their prayer and their supplication in heaven, Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause. | 49. may You receive from the heavens, from the place of the ‎house of Your Shekinah, their prayers and their petitions and may You avenge their ‎humiliations. |
| 50. And forgive Your people what they have sinned against You, and all their transgressions that they have transgressed against You, and give mercy before their captors, that they may have mercy on them. | 50. And may You forgive Your people who have sinned before You and all their ‎rebellious acts that they rebelled against Your Memra and may You give them mercy before ‎their captors and they have mercy upon them. |
| 51. For they are Your people, and Your inheritance, whom You have taken out of Egypt, from within the smelting furnace of iron. | 51. For they are Your people and Your inheritance, ‎whom You brought forth from Egypt from the midst of the furnace of iron, |
| 52. That Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant, and to the supplication of your people Israel, to hearken to them whenever they call to You. | 52. that there be ‎good pleasure before You to receive the petitions of Your servant and the petitions of Your ‎people Israel, to receive their prayers in all the times that they are praying before You. ‎ |
| 53. For You set them apart from among all the peoples of the earth, Your inheritance, as You spoke through Moses Your servant, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord, God." **{P}** | 53. For You have separated them for Yourself for an inheritance from all the peoples of the earth as You spoke by the hand of Moses Your servant when You brought forth our fathers from Egypt, O LORD our God. ‎**{P}** |
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**Rashi’s Commentary on ‎1 Kings 8:9-18‎**

**1 The princes of the fathers’ houses of the children of Israel** [Literally, to the children of Israel, but translated] of the children of Israel.

**Out of the city of David** David had placed it there when he brought it [back] from the house of Obed-edom (Samuel II 6:12).

**2 In the Month Ethanim** Jonathan rendered [these words] בְּיֶרַח הָאֵיתָנִים בֶּחָג as follows: ‘In the month which the ancients called the first month, on the festival, and at present it is the seventh month,’ i.e., since the Torah was given, and it is written in reference to the month of נִיסָן that it is the first of the months, so תִּשְׁרֵיwill then be called the seventh [month].

**4 And the tabernacle of meeting** Which Moses made [in the desert, and was in Gibeon until now], And Solomon stored this away as soon as the first temple was built, [in the upper story which was above the temple and the Sanctuary,] as we have learned in the Tosefta of the tractate Sota (13:1).

**Which were in the tabernacle** which David pitched for the ark.

**6 Under the wings of the cherubim** Those which Solomon made, which are standing on their feet on the ground [and facing the temple.] And these are not the cherubim of the cover which was on the ark.

**7 Over the place of the ark** [Their wings were spread] from wall to wall as he said above on this subject (6:27).

**8 The ends of the staves were seen** In the curtain which was against the entrance [of the sanctuary in the אמה טרקסין . You might think they tore through the curtain and protruded [on the other side]. The text, therefore, states “and they were not seen without.” How is this possible? They were pushing and bulging similar to two breasts of a woman, as it says, “he lies between my breasts” (Song of Songs 1:13).

**10 When the priests came out of the holy place** When the priests who carried the ark into the Sanctuary were leaving, the Divine presence immediately came to rest there.

**12 Then** When he saw the cloud, he said, Now I see that the Divine presence is in the house which I built, for thus did He promise to come and dwell in it from the midst of a cloud and thick darkness. And where did he say this promise? “For in the cloud will I appear upon the ark-cover” (Lev. 16:12). Thus is this taught in the Sifrei.

**13 For You to dwell in forever** And from the time that this [place] was chosen, it would no longer be permissible [to offer sacrifices] on any strange altars, [except those in the temple,] and the Divine presence no longer dwelled in any other place.

**15 Who spoke with His mouth** [He also told him] that he would grant him a son who would build the temple.

**And has fulfilled it with His hand** He has fulfilled His word with His good power, lit. with His good hand.

**16 ...Since the day, etc.** This is what He spoke to my father David.

**22 And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord** [He was not always standing upright but kneeling, nor was he on the ground but on the laver, as] it is written in (Chronicles II 6:13): “for Solomon had made a copper laver, [of five cubits long, and five cubits broad,] and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court, and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees [in the presence of all the congregation of Israel].”

**23 Who keeps covenant** He waits and stores away [the reward], to keep the covenant, and [which was based on] mercy, to fulfill His promise.

**24 Who has kept** שָּׁמַרְתִּי is an expression meaning fulfilling a promise [a reference to the promise that Solomon would built the temple].

**27 ...will...indeed...?** Heb. האמנם , This is an expression of wonder.

**cannot contain You** Heb. יְכַלְכְּלוּךָ [the root is יכול , to contain].

**31 If a man sins against his neighbor** One who is intimate with a married woman.

**and an oath be exacted of him** curse [rather than oath]. Just as the water inspects her, so does the water inspect him.

**shall be exacted of him** Heb. ונשא בו , an expression of נוֹשֶׁה , a creditor.

**and he come and swear before your altar** As it says, “And the priest shall stand the woman before the Lord” (Num. 5:10).

**32 To bring his way upon his head** “And her belly shall swell, etc.” (ibid. 27).

**And justifying the righteous** [By rewarding those who deserve it, as it says,] “Then she shall be cleared, and shall conceive seed” (ibid. 28). Thus is this explained in the Tosefta of the Tractate Sota (Chap. 1:3).

**33 And praise Your name** For our Sages said that a person is obliged to bless God for the bad as well as the good.

**35 so that You may answer them** The word כי here is used in the context of אשר , “so that.”

**37** Heb. ירקון , when the wheat does not grow up on the stalk to make an ear [on top].

**43 According to all that the stranger called to you for** And by the [request of] the Jew he says (v. 39), “and give to every man according to his ways” [indicating that he may occasionally be refused,] that is because the Jew recognizes and accepts God, the Holy One, may He be blessed, and he knows that He has the ability in His power to respond [favorably to his request, if God so wished;] and if his prayers will not be heard [and fulfilled], he will blame the matter on himself and his sins. But [if] the non-Jew would [experience the same frustrations he would] say, a house whose name and fame reaches to the ends of the world, and I have exhausted myself [traveling] on many roads, and I [finally] came [to this house] and prayed in it and I find no substance [nor significance] in it, just as there is no substance in idol worshipping. Therefore, [I beg You, said Solomon,] “according to all that the stranger called to you for,” but [as for] the Jew, if you see that he uses his wealth to destroy his friend, [then] do not give him [any].

**44 Toward the city** [while in the land of the enemy, they shall pray] facing towards Jerusalem.

**45 And maintain their cause** their vengeance against their enemy.

**51 The melting furnace of iron** An earthenware utensil used to purify gold of its impurities.

**In The School of the Prophets**

**1 Kings 8:9-18**

**By: Hakham Dr. Yosef ben Haggai**

The verbal tally between the Torah Seder for this week and our Ashlamatah is as follows:

**Deuteronomy 10:1**

**בָּעֵת הַהִוא אָמַר יְהוָה אֵלַי, פְּסָל-לְךָ שְׁנֵי-לוּחֹת אֲבָנִים כָּרִאשֹׁנִים, וַעֲלֵה אֵלַי, הָהָרָה; וְעָשִׂיתָ לְּךָ, אֲרוֹן עֵץ.**

At that time the LORD said unto me: 'Hew thee **two tables of stone** like unto the first, and come up unto Me into the mount; and make thee an **ark** of wood.

**Deuteronomy 10:3**

**וָאַעַשׂ אֲרוֹן עֲצֵי שִׁטִּים, וָאֶפְסֹל שְׁנֵי-לֻחֹת אֲבָנִים כָּרִאשֹׁנִים; וָאַעַל הָהָרָה, וּשְׁנֵי הַלֻּחֹת בְּיָדִי.**

So I made an **ark** of acacia-wood, and hewed **two tables of stone** like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in my hand.

**1 Kings 8:9**

**אֵין, בָּאָרוֹן, רַק שְׁנֵי לֻחוֹת הָאֲבָנִים, אֲשֶׁר הִנִּחַ שָׁם מֹשֶׁה בְּחֹרֵב--אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת יְהוָה עִם-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּצֵאתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם.**

There was nothing in the **ark** save the **two tables of stone** which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt.

As can be seen there are various points of connection between the Torah, Ashlamatah and the Psalm for this Shabbat. One that is particularly important in our opinion is the use of the term **בָּחַר (Bachar)** and translated as “to choose.” The word appears in Deut. 10:15; Psalm 119:30; and 1 Kings 8:16. In succession, they seem to tell an important story.

* **Deut. 10:15**

Only the LORD had a delight in your fathers to love them, and He **chose** their seed after them, even you, above all peoples, as it is this day.

* **Psalm 119:30**

I **have chosen** the way of faithfulness; Your ordinances have I set [before me].

* **1 Kings 8:16**

Since the day that I brought forth My people Israel out of Egypt, I **chose** no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house, that My name might be there; but I **chose** David to be over My people Israel.

In Debarim 10:15 we start with the maxim that it is G-d who chooses and elects who are His, not us. However, once G-d chooses, then we have the prerogative to choose or reject “the way of faithfulness” or “the way of faithful obedience” as Messiah King David describes in Psalm 119:30. But G-d not only chooses people to accomplish His purposes on earth as is the case with the Messiah (cf. 1 Kings 8:16), but He also chooses places that are very special to Him and where His Shekinah becomes manifest.

G-d has most definitely chosen Messiah King “David to be over His people Israel” but G-d, most blessed be He, also promised Messiah King David that a descendant of Him would also rule over Israel in the Diaspora whilst affecting Tikun Olam amongst the Gentiles and in preparation for the return of all Israel to the land Promissed to our forefathers as it is said:

***“‎The breath of our nostrils, the anointed (Messiah) of the LORD, Was caught in their pits, of whom we ‎said, ‘Under his shadow we will live among the Gentiles’”* (‎Lam 4:20)**

But as always, the unjust, and unlearned will choose any way that seems good to themselves (cf. Jdg 21:25), rather than “the way of faithfulness.” More than ever, it is important in our days that we follow Messiah King David’s example and “set G-d’s ordinances before us” and “cleaving unto Him” with all of our soul and might, amen ve amen!

**Verbal Connections**

**By H.Em. Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David &**

**HH Giberet Dr. Elisheba bat Sarah**

**Debarim (Deuteronomy) 10:1 – 11:9**

**Tehillim (Psalms) 119:25-48**

**I Melachim (Kings) 8:9-18**

**Mk 14:53-65, Lk 22:54-62, Rm 11:11-16**

**The verbal tallies between the Torah and the Psalm are:**

Time - עת, Strong’s number 06256.

LORD - יהוה, Strong’s number 03068.

**The verbal tallies between the Torah and the Ashlamata are:**

LORD - יהוה, Strong’s number 03068.

Said / Spake - אמר, Strong’s number 0559.

Two - שנים, Strong’s number 08147.

Tables - לוח, Strong’s number 03871.

Stone - אבן, Strong’s number 068.

Ark - ארון, Strong’s number 0727.

**Debarim (Deuteronomy) 10:1** At that **time <06256>** the **LORD <03068>** **said <0559> (8804)** unto me, Hew thee **two <08147>** **tables <03871>** of **stone <068>** like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an **ark <0727>** of wood.

**Tehillim (Psalms) 119:1** ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the **LORD <03068>**.

**Tehillim (Psalms) 119:20** My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all **times <06256>**.

**Melachim alef (I Kings) 8:9** There was nothing in the **ark <0727>** save <07535> the **two <08147>** **tables <03871>** of **stone <068>**, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the **LORD <03068>** made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

**Melachim alef (I Kings) 8:12** Then **spake <0559> (8804)** Solomon, The **LORD <03068>** **said <0559> (8804)** that he would dwell in the thick darkness.

Hebrew:

| **Hebrew** | **English** | **Torah Seder**  **Deu 10:1 – 11:9** | **Psalms**  **Ps 119:25-48** | **Ashlamatah**  **I Kings 8:9-18** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ba'** | father | Deut. 10:11 Deut. 10:15 Deut. 10:22 Deut. 11:9 |  | 1 Ki. 8:15 1 Ki. 8:17 1 Ki. 8:18 |
| **!b,a,** | stone | Deut. 10:1 Deut. 10:3 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 |
| **bhea'** | love | Deut. 10:12 Deut. 10:15 Deut. 10:18 Deut. 10:19 Deut. 11:1 | Ps. 119:47 Ps. 119:48 |  |
| **~yhil{a/** | GOD | Deut. 10:9 Deut. 10:12 Deut. 10:14 Deut. 10:17 Deut. 10:20 Deut. 10:21 Deut. 10:22 Deut. 11:1 Deut. 11:2 |  | 1 Ki. 8:15 1 Ki. 8:17 |
| **rm;a'** | said, saying | Deut. 10:1 Deut. 10:11 |  | 1 Ki. 8:12 1 Ki. 8:15 1 Ki. 8:18 |
| **!Ara]** | ark | Deut. 10:1 Deut. 10:2 Deut. 10:3 Deut. 10:5 Deut. 10:8 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 |
| **#r,a,** | land, earth,  ground | Deut. 10:7 Deut. 10:11 Deut. 10:14 Deut. 10:19 Deut. 11:3 Deut. 11:6 Deut. 11:8 Deut. 11:9 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 |
| **aAB** | come, go | Deut. 10:11 Deut. 11:5 Deut. 11:8 | Ps. 119:41 |  |
| **rx;B'** | choose, chose | Deut. 10:15 | Ps. 119:30 | 1 Ki. 8:16 |
| **tyIB;** | household,  house | Deut. 11:6 |  | 1 Ki. 8:10 1 Ki. 8:11 1 Ki. 8:13 1 Ki. 8:16 1 Ki. 8:17 1 Ki. 8:18 |
| **!Be** | son | Deut. 10:6 Deut. 11:2 Deut. 11:6 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 |
| **%r'B'** | bless | Deut. 10:8 |  | 1 Ki. 8:14 1 Ki. 8:15 |
| **qb;D'** | cling,  cleaves | Deut. 10:20 | Ps. 119:25 Ps. 119:31 |  |
| **rb;D'** | spoken,  spoke | Deut. 10:4 Deut. 10:9 | Ps. 119:46 | 1 Ki. 8:15 |
| **rb'D'** | words | Deut. 10:2 Deut. 10:4 | Ps. 119:25 Ps. 119:28 Ps. 119:42 Ps. 119:43 |  |
| **%r,D,** | ways | Deut. 10:12 | Ps. 119:26 Ps. 119:27 Ps. 119:29 Ps. 119:30 Ps. 119:32 Ps. 119:33 Ps. 119:37 |  |
| **hy"h'** | have, happened | Deut. 10:9 |  | 1 Ki. 8:10 |
| **%l;h'** | proceed, walk | Deut. 10:11 Deut. 10:12 | Ps. 119:45 |  |
| **dy"** | hand | Deut. 10:3 Deut. 11:2 |  | 1 Ki. 8:15 |
| **hwhy** | LORD | Deut. 10:1 Deut. 10:4 Deut. 10:5 Deut. 10:8 Deut. 10:9 Deut. 10:10 Deut. 10:11 Deut. 10:12 Deut. 10:13 Deut. 10:14 Deut. 10:15 Deut. 10:17 Deut. 10:20 Deut. 10:22 Deut. 11:1 Deut. 11:2 Deut. 11:4 Deut. 11:7 Deut. 11:9 | Ps. 119:31 Ps. 119:33 Ps. 119:41 | 1 Ki. 8:9 1 Ki. 8:10 1 Ki. 8:11 1 Ki. 8:12 1 Ki. 8:15 1 Ki. 8:17 1 Ki. 8:18 |
| **~Ay** | day | Deut. 10:4 Deut. 10:8 Deut. 10:10 Deut. 10:13 Deut. 10:15 Deut. 11:1 Deut. 11:2 Deut. 11:4 Deut. 11:8 Deut. 11:9 |  | 1 Ki. 8:16 |
| **laer'f.yI** | Israel | Deut. 10:6 Deut. 10:12 Deut. 11:6 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 1 Ki. 8:14 1 Ki. 8:15 1 Ki. 8:16 1 Ki. 8:17 |
| **lKo** | all, whole,  entire, every | Deut. 10:12 Deut. 10:14 Deut. 10:15 Deut. 11:1 Deut. 11:3 Deut. 11:6 Deut. 11:7 Deut. 11:8 | Ps. 119:34 | 1 Ki. 8:14 1 Ki. 8:16 |
| **bb'le** | heart | Deut. 10:12 Deut. 10:16 |  | 1 Ki. 8:17 1 Ki. 8:18 |
| **x;Wl** | tablets | Deut. 10:1 Deut. 10:2 Deut. 10:3 Deut. 10:4 Deut. 10:5 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 |
| **%l,m,** | king | Deut. 11:3 | Ps. 119:46 | 1 Ki. 8:14 |
| **!mi** | above,  because, | Deut. 10:15 | Ps. 119:28 | 1 Ki. 8:11 1 Ki. 8:16 |
| **hw"c.mi** | commandments | Deut. 10:13 Deut. 11:1 Deut. 11:8 | Ps. 119:32 Ps. 119:35 Ps. 119:47 Ps. 119:48 |  |
| **~yIr'c.mi** | Egypt | Deut. 10:19 Deut. 10:22 Deut. 11:3 Deut. 11:4 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 1 Ki. 8:16 |
| **jP'v.mi** | justice, ordinances | Deut. 10:18 Deut. 11:1 | Ps. 119:30 Ps. 119:39 Ps. 119:43 |  |
| **hj'n"** | outstreched,  incline | Deut. 11:2 | Ps. 119:36 |  |
| **vp,n<** | soul | Deut. 10:12 Deut. 10:22 | Ps. 119:25 Ps. 119:28 |  |
| **af'n"** | carry,  partiality, lift | Deut. 10:8 Deut. 10:17 | Ps. 119:48 |  |
| **d[;** | until,  completely,  utterly | Deut. 10:8 Deut. 11:4 Deut. 11:5 | Ps. 119:43 |  |
| **~l'A[** | forever |  | Ps. 119:44 | 1 Ki. 8:13 |
| **!yI[;** | eyes | Deut. 10:21 Deut. 11:7 | Ps. 119:37 |  |
| **l[;** | therefore, over | Deut. 10:9 |  | 1 Ki. 8:16 |
| **dm;['** | stand, stayed | Deut. 10:8 Deut. 10:10 |  | 1 Ki. 8:11 1 Ki. 8:14 |
| **hP,** | mouth | Deut. 11:6 | Ps. 119:43 | 1 Ki. 8:15 |
| **~ynIP'** | before, face | Deut. 10:8 Deut. 10:11 Deut. 10:17 |  | 1 Ki. 8:11 1 Ki. 8:14 |
| **lh'q'** | assembly | Deut. 10:4 |  | 1 Ki. 8:14 |
| **~Wq** | arise | Deut. 10:11 | Ps. 119:28 Ps. 119:38 |  |
| **ha'r'** | seen | Deut. 10:21 Deut. 11:2 Deut. 11:7 | Ps. 119:37 |  |
| **qr'** | yet, except | Deut. 10:15 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 |
| **jb,ve** | tribe | Deut. 10:8 |  | 1 Ki. 8:16 |
| **~v'** | there | Deut. 10:5 Deut. 10:6 Deut. 10:7 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 1 Ki. 8:16 |
| **~ve** | name | Deut. 10:8 Deut. 10:20 |  | 1 Ki. 8:16 1 Ki. 8:17 1 Ki. 8:18 |
| **rm;v'** | keep | Deut. 10:13 Deut. 11:1 Deut. 11:8 | Ps. 119:34 Ps. 119:44 |  |
| **~yIn"v.** | two | Deut. 10:1 Deut. 10:3 |  | 1 Ki. 8:9 |
| **tr'v'** | serve | Deut. 10:8 |  | 1 Ki. 8:11 |
| **rb;['** | cross | Deut. 11:8 | Ps. 119:37 Ps. 119:39 |  |
| **~[;** | people | Deut. 10:11 Deut. 10:15 |  | 1 Ki. 8:16 |

**Nazarean Talmud**

**Sidra of “D’barim” (Deut.) “10.1- 11:9”**

**“Bae-et Hahi Amar” – “At that Time [HA-SHEM] Said”**

**By: H. Em Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu ben Abraham**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **School of Hakham Shaul’s Tosefta – Luqas (LK)** | **School of Hakham Tsefet’s**  **Peshat – Mordechai (Mk)** |
| **“But behold, the hand of the one who is betraying me** is **with me on the table** (Psalm 41:10)**! For the Son of Man[[23]](#footnote-23) is going according to what has been** pre-**determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” And they began to debate with one another who of them could it be who was going to do this.** | **And when** the first **evening** of the 14th of Nisan **came, he (**Yeshua) **arrived with the twelve** (talmidim). **And as** they **reclined and ate, Yeshua said amen ve amen one of you will betray[[24]](#footnote-24) me** (hand me over)**, and he is eating with me** (Psalm 41:10)**. And they began to grieve and asked him one after the other, is it me? And answering, he** (Yeshua) **said to them** it is **one of the twelve who is dipping with me in the** same **bowl. Because the Son of Man[[25]](#footnote-25)** has to **go away as** it is written in **the Scriptures** (Tanakh) **concerning him, but woe to that man which betrays the Son of Man. It would have been more beneficial for him not to have been born.** |

**Nazarean Codicil to be read in conjunction with the following Torah Seder**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| \*Deu 10.1- 11:9 | Ps 119.1-24 | 1 Kings 8.9-18 | Mordechai 14:17-21 | 1 Luqas 22:21-23 |

**Commentary to Hakham Tsefet’s School of Peshat**

**Shabbat HaGadol**

This week’s pericope of Mordechai (Mark) aligns well with the Bimodal aspect of the Triennial Torah reading cycle. It causes us to ask several questions. Seeing the betrayal of the Master, forces us to look at the virtues and depravity of man. This is evident in the present pericope, of Mordechai (Mark), and Luqas of Hakham Shaul. The words of the Psalm 41:10[[26]](#footnote-26) **“My ally in whom I trusted, even he who shares my bread, has been utterly false to me”** allows us to see the negative side of a man’s relationship to his “teacher.” Marcus believes that the “act of treachery is an act of Divine providence and human sinfulness.”[[27]](#footnote-27) Likewise, the Torah sets the tone for the weekly pericope of Mordechai (Mark). The repetitive statement concerning the observance of mitzvoth stands out in the Torah portion as Moshe delineates the contents of the Lukot. We have discusses the idea of phrase statute is “chok” singular and “chukkim” in the plural in the past. These mitzvoth are the most complex of all. This is because they are supra rational. In our humble opinion, the “statutes and judgments” (Heb. mishpatim) relate to the Oral Torah and Mesorah.

We also find it to be Divine providence that we have the Mishnah Abot so closely aligned with the themes of the Torah and the pericope of Mordechai.

**And when [the first] evening** of the 14th of Nisan **came, he (Yeshua) arrived with the twelve (talmidim).**

We are taught, from the Sages that the Hebrew word “mitzvah” is rooted in the idea of connection. In other words, the mitzvoth are a way of connecting with G-d. Following the mitzvoth leads the man of righteousness/generosity down a path of righteousness/generosity as ordered by G-d. In the present verse, we see Yeshua and his talmidim observing the mitzvah of keeping Pesach.

Therefore, we have a Nazarean Mitzvah implied by the actions of the Master. Here the implied mitzvah of the Nazarean Codicil is …

1. The Festival of Hag Hamatzah (Pesach) is a holy convocation[[28]](#footnote-28)

By further implication, the master teaches us that man must keep the mitzvot and that it is the depravity of Yehudah’s (Judas), which keeps him from observing the mitzvot and connecting with G-d.

Yehudah (Judas) was cursed by his own free willed choice. God did not make a mistake in giving Judas life but brought to judgment the evil that Judas own will acquired by his own choice (Origen, John of Damascus).[[29]](#footnote-29)

Here we also note the magnanimity of Yeshua’s compassion and discretion in dealing with Yehudah Ish Keriyoth, the betrayer.[[30]](#footnote-30) Yeshua does not openly tell us who the betrayer is. However, he does reveal who he is through implication. Bowman notes “The Marcan account is more restrained and more effective.”[[31]](#footnote-31) In such a case, Yeshua has followed the example of his mentor Hillel who taught him to be a talmid of Aaron, loving peace.[[32]](#footnote-32)

**Amen ve amen one of you will betray[[33]](#footnote-33) me – 14:18b**

The doubting Thomas, Craig Evans,[[34]](#footnote-34) in agreement with the Tübingen School of thought[[35]](#footnote-35) tells us that someone (one of Yeshua’s Jerusalem friends) told Yeshua that one of his talmidim had been conspiring with the Kohen Gadol and the Tz’dukim. According to Evans, the Master had no intuitive or prophetic abilities. His “knowledge” of these facts was “derived from various friendly sources.”[[36]](#footnote-36) The absurdity of the claim takes little logic to refute. Yehuda Ish Keriyoth most certainly would not have publicized his intent nor would have the Kohanim. Mr. Evan’s words are too irrational to accept. Interestingly enough Evans changes his tune to suggest that Mark is emphasizing Yeshua’s predictive (prophetic) abilities. Mr. Evans needs to make up his mind.

**Mah Nish’tanah – 14:18**

**And as (they) reclined and ate, Yeshua said amen ve amen one of you will betray[[37]](#footnote-37) me (hand me over), and he is eating with me.**

Sheb’chol haleilot anu och’lin, bein yoshu’vin m’subin, halailah kulanu m’subin? “On all other nights, we eat in an upright position or reclining, while on this night we eat only eat reclining.”

Here we note that the Nazarean Codicil implies another mitzvah.

1. To recline while eating the Passover[[38]](#footnote-38)

The question asked by the “simple son” notes that the Pesach Seder is a night of reclining like Kings. Here in our present pericope of Mordechai the master demonstrates that this was a very ancient practice as well as being the correct one.

Here we note that Hakham Tsefet has intentionally inserted this small piece of information for halakhic purposes. Since we have a “Mesorah” rather than a “Gospel”, we have a halakhic behaviour that is the normative practice of the Master, and which is given to us in order to follow.

**To Grieve – 14:19**

**And they began to grieve and asked him one after the other, is it me? (It’s not me?)**

Mark only uses this word twice in his Mesorah.[[39]](#footnote-39) On both occasions, the term denotes those who **fail** Yeshua.[[40]](#footnote-40) The first occasion is the young property owner[[41]](#footnote-41) who has trouble with Yeshua’s charge to sell everything and follow him.

Here the talmidim are “grieved” at the possibility of **failing** the master. As stated above this forces every talmid to look internally as one who must search the house for chametz.[[42]](#footnote-42)

**Clumsy Greek? Or Mishnaic Hebrew? - 14:19b**

**one after the other, is it me? (It’s not me?)**

The Greek text here is awkward[[43]](#footnote-43) as it tries to master the Hebraic origin of the text. Here again the Greek text yields to the understanding that the original language was Mishnaic Hebrew.[[44]](#footnote-44) Scholars have suggested that the difficulty is not in the language but in the author, who they suggest is not very educated or not versed in Greek. Please note that regardless of how we interpret the idea that Mordechai is writing this book we MUST realize that Hakham Tsefet is the real author behind the text. However, we here suggest that Mordechai, the sofer and talmid of Hakham Tsefet was no dummy either. When we realize that Yeshua, the prophetic “son of man” knew that he was establishing a Mesorah for his talmidim, we must believe that Yeshua sought capable men of great intellect for the transmission of his Mesorah. Here we can further surmise that Hakham Tsefet was chief in ability and understanding of the Torah. Black[[45]](#footnote-45) tells us that Mordechai accompanied Hakham Shaul on his missionary journey[[46]](#footnote-46) to the gentiles as a catechist. “His occupation was to see that the converts really knew who and what the Sh’liachim (Apostles)[[47]](#footnote-47) were talking about.”[[48]](#footnote-48) While concurring with Black we interpret things just a little bit differently. We agree that Mordechai was the teacher “catechist,” training new converts. However, we would further suggest that Mordechai taught them the “Mishnah of Mordechai” or the “Mishnaic Import of the Teachings of the School of Hakham Tsefet.” We would also further opine here, that the materials that we are speaking about[[49]](#footnote-49) were the materials he used to catechize his converts and students. Of course, this would mean that these documents were already in existence. This would refute the idea that these documents were written in the middle sixties of the first century of the Common Era. We propose that the materials of the “Mishnaic import of the Teachings of the School of Hakham Tsefet” were written before 41 C.E.[[50]](#footnote-50) or earlier. While other scholars tend to push the “Gospel of Mark,” to the early/middle part of the second century, Eusebius records Papias[[51]](#footnote-51) of Hierapolis, vindicating the authenticity of the “Gospel of Mark” – the “Mishnaic import of the Teachings of the School of Hakham Tsefet”.[[52]](#footnote-52) This would mean that the understanding of the original Mishnaic Hebrew text was lost by the time of his writing, and that the Judaic understanding of the Mesorah had been lost or “sanitized” by this time. As such, this points to the fact that the calamity of the Nazarean faith occurred sometime immediately following 70 C.E. Our joint thesis is that Nazarean Judaism retreated to Orthodox Judaism and related circles while still believing in Yeshua as Messiah immediately following 70 C.E.

**Tishri or Nisan**

**and asked him one after the other, is it me? (It’s not me?)**

The text of our pericope suggests that we are either in the month of Tishri or Nisan.[[53]](#footnote-53) This is because Yeshua forces his talmidim to do introspection. The month of Tishri tells one to search his inner being for false motives. This lesson is evident in the present pericope. However, the month of Nisan has a parallel message. The house of the Jew is turned “upside down,” so to speak in a search for Chametz in order to keep the seven-day festival of Hag HaMatzot free of leaven.

Origen suggests that Yeshua taught each of his talmidim to introspect.[[54]](#footnote-54) As noted above, Yeshua uses discretion in revealing the betrayer. This causes all the talmidim to introspect and question their interior motive. However, introspection demands a standard by which we judge ourselves. Again, the Torah Seder is replete with Moshe’s commands to keep the mitzvoth. Therefore, the mitzvoth serve as a means for introspection. Yeshua’s statement at this place in the Pesach Seder serves to heighten the tension and drives the idea of introspection deep within the talmidim.

**Karpas/haroset 14:20**

**And answering, he (Yeshua) said to them [it is] one of the twelve who is dipping with me in the [same] bowl.**

Here we have translated the final words of the verse “**the** same **bowl.**” Three of the Greek variants include the word “same.”[[55]](#footnote-55) Thus, the **implication**[[56]](#footnote-56) is that Yehudah Ish Keriyoth is dipping in the same bowl as Yeshua. Undoubtedly, this limited the possible traitor to Yehuda Ish Keriyoth. We suggest that the seating arrangement allowed Yeshua and Yehuda to dip from the same bowl or dish. Exactly who all had access to the same dish is speculation. However, it would appear from the text that Yeshua is implicating Yehuda Ish Keriyoth. However, Gould suggests that Hakham Tsefet is not as interested in implicating Yehuda Ish Keriyoth, so much as pointing out the act of treachery against the master.[[57]](#footnote-57) If this were the case, it would easily match the theme of introspection requisite at this time of the year. It would also suggest that the search for chametz, in the home of the observant Jews which starts just after the Purim and lasts until Hag hamatzot.

**Middah k’neged middah…**

Moshe entreated the LORD to allow him to enter Eretz Yisrael. While the LORD did not allow Moshe to enter Eretz Yisrael, Moshe was a man of virtue, who modelled virtue for all men. Moshe led many men to righteousness/ generosity, as did Yeshua our Master. However, as our Mishnah says, **he who leads the many to sin, to him will be given no means for repentance/returning.**[[58]](#footnote-58) Such was the case of Yehuda Ish Keriyoth. Like Jereboam, Yehuda Ish Keriyoth placed a “stumbling block” before the blind.

When the Bne Yisrael failed to allow the land to lay fallow in the shimitah year, G-d enacted “middah k’neged middah” a punishment matching the misdeed. Jeroboam’s punishment was “middah k’neged middah” a punishment which matched his crime. In similar manner, we can see that Yehudah Is Keriyoth’s punishment matched his crime.

Yeshua the prophetic “son of man,” accepts Yehuda’s treachery as a part of his destiny[[59]](#footnote-59) in accordance with the writings of the Tanakh. However, the pronouncement of the oath and “woe” serves as a caveat that should Yehuda Ish Keriyoth proceed with his plan. The Rabbis of the Gemara in their discussion on the Messiah tell us “all the prophets prophesied of the days of Messiah.”[[60]](#footnote-60) While we realize that we look forward to the “days of Messiah,” we also believe that Yeshua knew that Moshe and the Prophets accurately depicted his life, death and resurrection in the Tanakh, just as it was ordained in the will of G-d. This is because Yeshua was truly a Torah Scholar and a Hakham. The sublime theme of the Torah portion this week speaks of those who are faithful to Torah study. There is also an allusion to the study of the Mishneh Torah (Yad Chazaqah) in our present Torah Seder.

Hakham Tsefet is perfectly aware of all the nuances found in the Torah and related writings. His intention is to demonstrate that Yeshua, like Moshe was a man of virtue. His failure to directly mention the traitor among the talmidim tells us that every man MUST introspect to be assured that his motives are pure, like Matzah. Here Hakham Tsefet plays on the bi-modality of the Torah readings weaving that same bi-modality into the Mishnah of Mark.

**Some Questions to Ponder:**

1. From all the readings for this week, which particular verse or passage caught your attention and fired your heart and imagination?
2. In your opinion, and taking into consideration all of the above readings for this Sabbath, what is the prophetic message (the idea that encapsulates all the Scripture passages read) for this week

**Blessing After Torah Study**

**Barúch Atáh Adonai, Elohénu Meléch HaOlám,**

**Ashér Natán Lánu Torát Emét, V'Chayéi Olám Natá B'Tochénu.**

**Barúch Atáh Adonái, Notén HaToráh. Amen!**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem our GOD, King of the universe,**

**Who has given us a teaching of truth, implanting within us eternal life.**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**“Now unto Him who is able to preserve you faultless, and spotless, and to establish you without a blemish,**

**before His majesty, with joy, [namely,] the only one GOD, our Deliverer, by means of Yeshua the Messiah our Master, be praise, and dominion, and honor, and majesty, both now and in all ages. Amen!”**

**Next Shabbat:**

**Shabbat** **“Ki HaAretz, Asher” - “For the land which”**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Shabbat** | **Torah Reading:** | **Weekday Torah Reading:** |
| **כִּי הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר** |  | **Saturday Afternoon** |
| **“Ki HaAretz, Asher”** | Reader 1 – D’barim 11:10-12 | Reader 1 – D’barim 12:20-22 |
| **“For the land which”** | Reader 2 – D’barim 11:13-21 | Reader 2 – D’barim 12:23-25 |
| **“Porque la tierra a la cual”** | Reader 3 – D’barim 11:22-25 | Reader 3 – D’barim 12:26-28 |
|  | Reader 4 – D’barim 11:26-29 |  |
| D’barim (Deut.) 11:10 – 12:19 | Reader 5 – D’barim 11:30-32 | **Monday & Thursday**  **Mornings** |
| Psalm 119:25-48 | Reader 6 – D’barim 12:1-10 | Reader 1 – D’barim 12:20-22 |
| Ashlam.: I Kings 21:2-4,7-8,11-13,17-18 | Reader 7 – D’barim 12:11-19 | Reader 2 – D’barim 12:23-25 |
| N.C.: Mark 14:22-25;  Lk 22:15-20 | Maftir – D’barim 12:17-19 | Reader 3 – D’barim 12:26-28 |



**Saturday Evening May 7, 2022**

**Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 22**

Barukh Atah ADONAI

Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam

Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu

Al S’firat HaO’omer.

Evening Counting of the Omer Day 22

Today is 22 days of the Omer which are 3 weeks and 1 day

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 22 | Parnas 1/Masoret | Iyar 7 | 4:11-14 | Confidence united with Loving-kindness |

**And truly** he (Messiah) **gave some to be[[61]](#footnote-61) Masoretim[[62]](#footnote-62)** (catechists/evangelists), **and some to be Chazanim** (Cantors – Apostles of the congregation**), and some to be prophets** (Darshanim/Magidim),[[63]](#footnote-63) **and some to be pastors** (Parnasim), **and some to be** [school] **teachers/translators**)[[64]](#footnote-64) - (Moreh/Meturgeman)**,for the perfecting** (making stand)[[65]](#footnote-65) **of the saints/Tsadiqim[[66]](#footnote-66), for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the congregation of Messiah.And this until we arrive all into the unanimity of faithful obedience and of the intimate knowledge** (Da’at) **of the son of G-d,[[67]](#footnote-67) to a royal man/woman of complete maturity,[[68]](#footnote-68) to the measure of the stature of the fullness[[69]](#footnote-69) of Messiah** (of becoming in complete unity with Messiah)**;so that we no longer may be infants, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind[[70]](#footnote-70)** (fashion) **of teaching, in the dishonesty of men, in cunning craftiness, leading to the scheming of deception.[[71]](#footnote-71)**



**Sunday Evening May 8, 2022**

**Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 23**

Barukh Atah ADONAI

Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam

Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu

Al S’firat HaO’omer.

Evening Counting of the Omer Day 23

Today is 23 days of the Omer which are 3 weeks and 2 days

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 23 | Parnas 1/Chazan | Iyar 8 | 4:15-16 | Confidence united with Reverential Awe |

**But that you, teaching the Torah with loving-compassion**, **may grow up** (mature) **in every way** being **in union with him who is the head** (chief)[[72]](#footnote-72), **even Messiah** and his Hakhamim; **from whom the whole congregation** (body)**, fitted together[[73]](#footnote-73) and being united by the support of every joint, each member working properly in their measure to produce the growth of the congregation** (body) **to the building** up **of itself in loving-compassion** (ahavah – charity).[[74]](#footnote-74)

The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!

****

**Monday Evening May 9, 2022**

**Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 24**

Barukh Atah ADONAI

Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam

Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu

Al S’firat HaO’omer.

Evening Counting of the Omer Day 24

Today is 24 days of the Omer which are 3 weeks and 3 days

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 24 | Parnas 1/Darshan | Iyar 9 | 4:17-19 | Confidence united with Compassion |

**Now I say this, and testify in the Master, that from now on you cannot walk[[75]](#footnote-75) as** (some) **other Gentiles do** (walk**), devoid of truth** (Torah) **in their mind,[[76]](#footnote-76) having a** mental **disposition full of darkness,[[77]](#footnote-77) alienated[[78]](#footnote-78)** (cut off) **from the life of God,[[79]](#footnote-79) their ignorance is due to an unyielding obstinacy of mind.[[80]](#footnote-80) For they, being desensitized, have given themselves up to apostasy,[[81]](#footnote-81) (**and**) to every kind of impurity**.[[82]](#footnote-82)

The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!

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**Tuesday Evening May 10, 2022**

**Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 25**

Barukh Atah ADONAI

Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam

Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu

Al S’firat HaO’omer.

Evening Counting of the Omer Day 25

**Today is twenty-five days of the Omer which are three weeks and four days.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| **25** | **Parnas 1** | **Iyar 10** | **4:20-24** | **Confidence****[[74]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn74" \o ")** |

Ephesians 4:20-24 Your lessons on Messiah have taught you better than this,[[75]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn75" \o ") assuming you have paid attention to our teachings[[76]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn76" \o ") about him.[[77]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn77" \o ") Just as this instruction is the truth in (the Torah[[78]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn78" \o ") concerning) Yeshua.[[79]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn79" \o ") For you ought to put off[[80]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn80" \o ") the old man,[[81]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn81" \o ") (your previous way of living) which is destroyed by deceitful passions, and be renewed[[82]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn82" \o ") in the spirit of your mind.[[83]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn83" \o ") And you should put on the Nefesh Yehudi (new man),[[84]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn84" \o ") having been created after God’s likeness in righteousness/generosity and true holiness.

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**Wednesday Evening May 11, 2022**

**Counting of the Omer Day 26**

Barukh Atah ADONAI

Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam

Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu

Al S’firat HaO’omer.

**Today is twenty-six days of the Omer which are three weeks and five days.**

Barukh Atah ADONAI

Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam

Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu

Al S’firat HaO’omer.

Evening Counting of the Omer Day 26

Today is 26 days of the Omer which are 3 weeks and 5 days

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 26 | Parnas71 1/Parnas 2 | Iyar 11 | 4:25-27 | Confidence united with sincerity |

Ephesians 4:25-27 Therefore putting away falsehood,[[85]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn85" \o ") let each man speak[[86]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn86" \o ") honestly (in sincerity) with his neighbor,[[87]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn87" \o ") for we are one, and members of one congregation.[[88]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn88" \o ") Be angry,[[89]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn89" \o ") and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down upon your anger,[[90]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn90" \o ") neither give place to the adversary (devil).[[91]](https://www.betemunah.org/sederim/iyar880.html" \l "_ftn91" \o ")

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**Thursday Evening May 12, 2022**

**Counting of the Omer Day 27**

Barukh Atah ADONAI

Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam

Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu

Al S’firat HaO’omer.

Today is 27 days of the Omer which are 3 weeks and 6 days

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 27 | Parnas 1/Parnas 3 | Iyar 12 | 4:28 | Confidence united with truth |

Let him who stole[[83]](#footnote-83) steal no more, but rather let him labor,[[84]](#footnote-84) doing honest (beneficial) work with his own

hands so that he may have something to share [[85]](#footnote-85) with anyone who is in need.[[86]](#footnote-86)

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Description automatically generated**

Hakham Dr. Yosef ben Haggai

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**The Ten (3 + 7) Men of a Jewish Nazarean Congregation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bench of Three Hakhamim (Local Bet Din)** | | | **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **HEAVENLIES**    **Or**    **HEAVENLY**    **PLACES**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|** |
|  | **Keter**  (Crown) – Colourless  Ministry: Invisible  Divine Will in the Messiah |  |
| **Binah**  (Understanding) - Gray  Virtue: Simchah (Joy)  Ministry: 2nd of the bench of three  APOSTLE |  | **Chochmah**  (Wisdom) - Black  Virtue: Emunah (Faithful Obedience)  Ministry: Chief Hakham 1st of the bench of three  APOSTLE |
|  | **Da'at**  (Knowledge) - White  Virtue: Yichud (Unity)  Ministry: 3rd of the bench of three  APOSTLE |  |
| **The Seven Paqidim (Servants at the Bench)** | | | |
| **Gevurah**  (Strength/Might) – Scarlet Red  Virtue: Yir’ah (Fear of G-d)  Ministry: Sheliach [Chazan/Bishop] |  | **G’dolah / Chessed**  (Greatness/Mercy) – Royal Blue  Virtue: Ahavah (love)  Ministry: Masoret [Catechist/Evangelist] | **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **EARTHLY**    **Or**    **EARTHLY**  **PLACES**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|** |
|  | **Tiferet**  (Beauty) - Yellow  Virtue: Rachamim (Compassion)  Ministry: Darshan or Magid [Prophet] |  |
| **Hod**  (Glory) - Orange  Virtue: Temimut (Sincerity)  Ministry: Parnas [Pastor] |  | **Netzach**  (Victory) – Emerald Green  Virtue: Bitahon (Confidence)  Ministry: Parnas [Pastor] |
|  | **Yesod**  (Foundation) - Violet  Virtue: Emet (Truth/Honesty)  Ministry: Parnas [Pastor]  (Female – hidden) |  |
|  | **Shekhinah / Malkhut**  (Presence) – Purple  Virtue: Humility  Ministry: Meturgeman/Moreh/  Zaqen [Teacher/Elder] |  |

1. cf. Rom 8:32 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This verse relates to Moshe when he ascended the mountain and was given by G-d, not only the Torah, but also the ability to share his given gifts to men in the form of the 70 Elders of Israel and Joshua (a figure of Yeshua). Conversely, Yeshua as the second Moshe (Deut. 18:15) relives this experience again, and reinvigorates these gifts which were temporarily weakened because of the multitude of sins amongst our people. The first gift, which we must acknowledge is Matan HaTorah – the gift of the Torah. Moshe Rabbenu (Moses our Teacher) brought down from Har Sinai the most precious gift for all humanity, i.e. the Torah. Then Moshe, establishing the Messianic pattern gave of himself to the seventy. In the same way that Moshe established a hierarchal system of Theocratic Government Yeshua reinforced this same principle. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ascension “on high” here is in reference to Yeshua must be allegorical at minimum. The “ascension” of Yeshua is after his resurrection. While some theologians will suggest that these “gifts” were “poured out” at Shavuot/Pentecost with the so-called “outpouring of the Holy Spirit” we cannot agree with this line of thought. We will not argue at length the truth that the “Holy Spirit” is in fact the Breathing of the Mesorah. The anniversary date of Matan HaTorah is Shavuot/Pentecost. Therefore, if Yeshua gave “gifts to men” like Moshe Rabbenu, the first gift MUST be the Torah! Secondly, he can establish the unified community through the 10 Officers of the congregation. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Berachot 4b [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See prefatory remarks to psalm 60. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. v. 176 - These opening remarks are excerpted, and edited, from: *The ArtScroll Tanach Series, Tehillim*, A new translation with a commentary anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic, and rabbinic sources. Commentary by Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer, Translation by Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer in collaboration with Rabbi Nosson Scherman. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. David Kimhi (Hebrew: דוד קמחי‎, also Kimchi or Qimḥi) (1160–1235), also known by the Hebrew acronym as the RaDaK (רד”ק) (Rabbi David Kimhi), was a medieval rabbi, biblical commentator, philosopher, and grammarian. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The Book of Psalms, volume 3, Mikraoth Gedoloth, translation of text – Rashi and other commentaries by Rabbi A.J. Rosenberg. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. As well as many modern scholars, some of whom are cited in Daat Miqra’s commentary to the chapter [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Sanhedrin 5a [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Matityahu (Matthew) 16:19, 18:18 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Jewish Encyclopedia under the subject ‘AUTHORITY, RABBINICAL’. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. AKA Rabbi Moses ben Nachman Girondi, Bonastruc ça (de) Porta and by his acronym Ramban (1194 – 1270), was a leading medieval Jewish scholar, Catalan Sephardic rabbi, philosopher, physician, kabbalist, and biblical commentator. He was raised, studied, and lived for most of his life in Girona, Catalonia, Spain. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Moses ben Nahman (1194–1270), commonly known as Nachmanides, and also referred to by the acronym Ramban, was a leading medieval Jewish scholar, Sephardic rabbi, philosopher, physician, kabbalist, and biblical commentator. He was raised, studied, and lived for most of his life in Girona, Catalonia. He is also considered to be an important figure in the re-establishment of the Jewish community in Jerusalem following its destruction by the Crusaders in 1099. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. *Mishna* means “study by repetition”, from the verb shanah שנה, or “to study and review”, is the first major written redaction of the Jewish oral traditions known as the “Oral Torah”. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. *Neshama* means soul. It is the third of the five levels of the soul: Nephesh, Ruach, Neshama, Chaya, and Yachida. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Menachoth 85b [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Everything in the Mishna is based on the written Torah. Nothing in the Mishna can stand without the written Torah. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. When G-d created the world and said, “Let there be light”, the illumination that resulted was not what we see today. This was a light, say our Sages, which enabled one “to see from one end of the world to another”. This is the Ohr HaGanuz. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. S.R. Hirsch, The Pentateuch [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Shabbath 73a [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Sifrei; Chul. 28a [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Verbal connection to D’varim 4:37 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Spoken of persons delivered over with evil intent to the power or authority of others as to magistrates for trial or condemnation, Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (G3860). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Verbal connection to D’varim 4:3, 21, 22 [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Psa. 41:9 in a Christian published Bible [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Marcus, J. (1992). *The Way of the Lord, Christilogical Exegesis of the Old Testament in the Gospel of Mark.* Louisville KY: Westminster/ John Knox Press. p. 178 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Mar. 14:17—25 (Lev 23:2, 4-9) Luk. 2:41, 1 Cor. 5:6—8, Acts (II Lukas) 12:3—17 [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Oden, T. C., & Hall, C. A. (1998). *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament II Mark.* Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press. p. 193 [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. I nwill deal with Yehuda Ish Keriyoth as the “betrayer” below [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Bowman, J. (1965). *The Gospel of Mark, The New Christian Jewish Passover Haggadah.* Leiden E.J. Brill. p.262 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Cf. m. Abot 1:12 [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Spoken of persons “**delivered over**” with evil intent to the power or authority of others as to magistrates for trial or condemnation, Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The complete word study dictionary: New Testament (G3860). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Evans, C. (2001). *Word Biblical Commentary, Vol. 34b: Mark 8:27-16:20.* Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers. p. 375 [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. This school of thought basically rejects any Divine element of Scripture. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Spoken of persons delivered over with evil intent to the power or authority of others as to magistrates for trial or condemnation, Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The complete word study dictionary: New Testament (G3860). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Mar. 14:18 It should be noted that the Mishnah Pesachim 10:1 makes note that even the poorest Israelite should not eat until he reclines at his table. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Cf. 10:22, 14:19 [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Edwards, J. (2002). *The Gospel according to Mark.* Grand Rapids Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Apollos. p. 423 [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Cf. Mordechai 10:17-22, Pericope 94 [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Leaven [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Evans, C. (2001). *Word Biblical Commentary, Vol. 34b: Mark 8:27-16:20.* Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers. p. 376, France, R. (2002). *The New International Greek Testament Commentary, The Gospel of Mark.* Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Eerdmand Publishing Co. p. 566 [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Papias of Hierapolis, reported to have been one of the earliest witnesses of the “gospels,” tells us that Matthew wrote his “Gospel” in the “Hebrew dialect” (Ματθαῖος μέν οὖν **Ἑβραίδι διαλέκτῳ** τά λόγια, "Hebrew dialect") by extension, we suggest all the “Gospels” were written in Mishnaic Hebrew – literally the whole Nazarean Codicil. That Papias speaks of the “Hebrew dialect” troubles scholars in that he should have said in the “Hebrew Tongue.” Scholars then retreat to the idea that Papias may have intended Aramaic or another dialect of Hebrew i.e. Mishnaic Hebrew. Likewise, M Segal tells us that Mishnaic Hebrew began to be used in Eretz Yisrael in 400 — 300 B.C.E Segal, M. (2001). *A Grammar of Mishnaic Hebrew.* Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers. p. 2

    <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papias_of_Hierapolis> According to this article Papias was one of the first to perpetuate the idea that there would be a millennial reign of Messiah upon the earth. Reading the materials attributed to Papias by Eusebius and Irenaeus one gets the idea that Papias had a propensity to interpret from P’shat. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. Black, C. C. (2001). *Mark, Images of an Apostolic Interpreter.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press. p. 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Here we believe that the missionary journeys of Hakham Shaul were pre 49 C.E. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. Note the subtle connection to the special Ashlamatah. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Mark, 1, 2 Peter and Jude [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. This is in agreement with James Crossley who suggests no later than 40 C.E with the purposed date between 36 —40 C.E. Crossley, J. G. (2004). *The Date of Mark's Gospel; Insight from the Law in Earliest Christianity.* New York : T&T Clark International [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. HE 3.34-39 Papias 60 —135 C.E. [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Crossley, J. G. (2004). *The Date of Mark's Gospel; Insight from the Law in Earliest Christianity.* New York : T&T Clark International. pp. 12-13 [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. The reason for either month relies on the Bi-modality of the Torah and Nazarean Codicil. [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. Oden, T. C., & Hall, C. A. (1998). *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament II Mark.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. p. 193 [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Edwards, J. (2002). *The Gospel according to Mark.* Grand Rapids Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Apollos. p. 424 [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. While others retreat to the other accounts of the Passover, we base our argument on contiguity and grammar. While we realize that, each of the talmidim **flees** from and **fails** Yeshua, Edwards misses the point with regard to the text’s idea of “**betrayal**.” the Greek text tells us that Yehuda Ish Keriyoth “**handed** (Yeshua) **over**” to the High Priests and their soferim. This word has been translated “betrayal” by implication. As noted above, the word **παραδίδωμι** is spoken of persons “**delivered over**” with evil intent to the power or authority of others as to magistrates for trial or condemnation, Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The complete word study dictionary: New Testament (G3860). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers. However, the word suffers because Yeshua is “betrayed” only by the **handing over** to the pseudo-authorities who with their kangaroo court condemn him to death. Therefore, I respectfully disagree with Edwards’s assumption that the rest of the eleven talmidim “**betray**” Yeshua based on the hermeneutic of contiguity and P’shat and grammar. Neither the Greek **παραδίδωμι** nor the Hebrew parallel **נָתַן** suggests that “all” of the talmidim “betrayed” Yeshua **in the manner as Yehuda Ish Keriyoth**. Therefore, I believe that Yeshua is clearly implicating Yehuda is Keriyoth. Cf. Edwards, J. (2002). *The Gospel according to Mark.* Grand Rapids Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Apollos. p. 424. Joel Marcus intimates that the term **παραδίδωμι** is to be translated “**will turn me over**” and is used in the LXX to mean “delivery to death” by an enemy. The phrase can also be related to a “righteous sufferer” as is the case in Psalms 41. In the case of Psalm 41 the “righteous sufferer” is “handed over” to his enemies. Marcus, J. (2009). *The Anchor Bible Dictionary, Mark 8-16, A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary.* Yale University. p. 950 [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Gould, E. P. (1922). *A critical and exegetical commentary on the Gospel according to St. Mark. .* New York: C. Scribner's sons. p. 262 [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. m. Abot 5:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. Hooker, M. D. (1991). *Black’s New Testament Commentaries: The Gospel According to Saint Mark.* London: A & C Black Publishers Ltd. p. 336 [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Neusner, J. (2005). *The Babylonian Talmud, A Translation and Commentary* (Vol. 16 Sanherdin). Peabody , MA: Hendrickson Publisher. p. 529 b. Sanhedrin 99a [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. What has been deemed the “Five-fold Ministry” by Christian theologians is an Ecclesiology that has existed in the Jewish Esnoga (Synagogue) for millennia. This Ecclesiology is a structured order of seven men. There are three Parnasim (pastors) that occupy the office. [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. Within Rabbinic Judaism as it developed in Talmudic and post-Talmudic times, the concept of tradition took on an added significance, reflected in the general term ***masoret***, a word based on the biblical Hebrew root *˓SR*, meaning to bind or imprison. This root yields the biblical Hebrew term ***masoret*,** found at Ezek. 20:37, which refers to the “bond of the covenant”﻿ into which God promises to return the rebellious people of Israel. This sense of the term tradition, as a bond or fetter that assures correct practice of the law, appears as well in Rabbinic sources. Aqiba in particular, calls tradition a “fence around the Torah” (M. Ab. 3:13), reflecting the frequent implementation of restrictive measures that assure compliance with the actual word of the Torah. Tradition, in this interpretation, protects people from violating the Torah. The Septuagint for this verse reads, “I will let you go in by number.” RSV here translates the Greek rather than the Hebrew. On this term, see Francis Brown, et al., *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Oxford, reprint, 1974), p. 64, s.v., *msrt*. Neusner, J., Neusner, J., Avery-Peck, A. J., Green, W. S., & Museum of Jewish Heritage (New York, N. Y. (2000). *The encyclopaedia of Judaism*. May 2001. Vol. 3 p. 1462 [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. The standard medieval Hebrew term for this genre is ***derashah***; the most common term for the one who delivers the sermon is ***darshan***; the verb “to preach” is ***li-derosh***. All three words are linked with the biblical root meaning, “to seek, demand, investigate.” The same root provides the word *midrash*, used in Rabbinic literature to indicate a mode of study focusing on careful interpretation of a biblical verse, the interpretation itself, and the literary work containing a collection of such interpretations. Neusner, J., Neusner, J., Avery-Peck, A. J., Green, W. S., & Museum of Jewish Heritage (New York, N. Y. (2000). *The encyclopaedia of Judaism*. May 2001. Vol. 3 p. 1320 [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. cf. 1 Corinthians 12:10 [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. **καταρτισμός** – *katartismos* being able to meet the demands of the ministry within the Esnoga. This also refers to order. Therefore, the “perfecting of the Saints” means to bring social order to the Congregation. The root **ἄρτιος** is used in mathematics as the basic principle in numbers and partly one of the ten basic principles. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. cf. Abot 1:1 [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. Heb. ben Elohim – the judge, i.e. Messiah [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. **τέλειος** – *teleios,* **Goal** is translated in various ways. Sometimes it is translated in a way that seems to annul the Torah. cf Rom. 10:4 which is usually translated… “(Rom. 10:4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” This verse, correctly translated… (Rom. 10:4) **For Messiah is the GOAL (τέλειος – *teleios*) of the Torah for righteousness/generosity to everyone who is faithfully obedient**. Therefore, we define maturity as the “Goal” and being like Messiah, and to possess his relationship to the Torah/Mesorah! [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. **πλήρωμα** – *pleroma* full of Messiah. Or we might here say that we must be full of Messiah’s Mesorah. [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. While the Greek word **πνεῦμα** – *pneuma* carries the connotations of the Hebrew word **רוּח, πνεῦμα –** *pneuma* does not perfectly match **רוּח.** Therefore, Hakham Shaul uses **ἄνεμος** – *anemos.* This is partly because the Remes analogy that he is positing is that of a ship being tossed by wind and wave. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. The power of the Ten (3+7) men is given for the building up of the Congregation. The individual officers each have their place and purpose. Therefore, the collegiate officers in unity protect the Congregation against deception. This unified group of officers has protected the Jewish people for millennia against many types of deception. [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. Messiah as the “head” (chief) is both source and goal of any Congregation. As noted above… **τέλειος** – *teleios,* **Goal** is translated in various ways. Sometimes it is translated in a way that seems to annul the Torah. cf Rom. 10:4 which is usually translated… “(Rom. 10:4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” This verse, correctly translated… (Rom. 10:4) **For Messiah is the GOAL (τέλειος – *teleios*) of the Torah for righteousness/generosity to everyone who is faithfully obedient**. Therefore, we define maturity as the “Goal” and being like Messiah, and to possess his relationship to the Torah/Mesorah! [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. Hakham Shaul’s language vacillates between a physical body and its joints and an Edifice i.e. Temple of Living Stones. Here the idea of building and polishing built stones. It also has the connotation of making a mosaic. This establishes a Congregation’s relationship with each other and with Messiah.

    The context (vv. 7–10, 11–16) shows that the participles συναρμολογούμενον and συμβιβαζόμενον﻿﻿ are designed to emphasize strongly the interplay of the different ministries and tasks within the body: “from whom the whole body—as one which is fitted and held together by each link which serves to support it—corresponding to the activity appropriate to each part achieves growth of the body to the building up of itself in love.” *Theological dictionary of the New Testament*. 1964-c1976. Vols. 5-9 edited by Gerhard Friedrich. Vol. 10 compiled by Ronald Pitkin. (G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley & G. Friedrich, Ed.) Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. 7:856 [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. Here we connect the joint meaning of the Hebrew **אהבה** – *ahavah* and the Greek word **ἀγάπη** – *agape.* The resultant translation then becomes “loving-compassion” in a charitable environment.  [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. **περιπατέω** – *peripateo* is used here twice to call the Gentile to Torah observance, meaning Hakham Shaul demands the acceptance of the Halakhah (613 mitzvot) as taught and expounded upon by the Hakhamim. [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. **ματαιότης** – *mataiotes*  mental futility or vanity. This means that the Gentile who rejects the Torah, 613 Mitzvot and the teachings of the Hakhamim are aimless conducting lifestyles of futility. This futility has captured their minds holding them ransom. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. Hakham Shaul now apprises us of the opposing mental disposition. Not only is it a mental disposition, it is the direct opposition to the Torah, the 613 Mitzvot and the Hakhamim. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. **ἀπαλλοτριόω** – *apallotriou* has the sense of being “hostile.” [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. Morally bereft of all sensible mores. The depth of this statement is only understood from a Hebraic mindset. To be **כָּרַת** – *karat*, “cut off” means completely estranged from G-d’s presence and protection. Those who were “cut off” while traveling through the wilderness were subjected to every evil influence, without G-d’s protection or chesed/grace. Therefore, this is a crime of excommunication by Divine Decree. Here we can see the gravity of moral purposelessness. There are those people who believe that the idle mind of secular entertainment is harmless. However, this idle purposelessness is “opposition” to the Torah, which presents the “goal of Messiah” before us a s standard of life. Life in Messiah has the purpose of recapturing the mission of Adam HaRishon. Adam HaRishon shows the ability to capture the essence of each creature on the earth. Nevertheless, the goal was to apprehend the essence of G-d Himself. Herein, Hakham Shaul in this letter to the Ephesian Congregation sets this goal before them in the pattern of the ten men (3 Dinim – Judges and 7 Paqidim) of the congregation. Why did Adam HaRishon and his spouse Chava cover themselves with a fig leaf? Was this an attempt to “hide” from the Omni Presence of G-d? Their new “awareness” was the sentience of the state of being **כָּרַת** – *karat*, “cut off.” Therefore, they saw that they were without G-d’s protection in the Garden. Covering themselves with a fig leaf has many So’od connotations. The most simplistic explanation is that they wanted to camouflage themselves primarily from G-d but the other animals of the earth that would now pursue them as a food source. The human mind/soul is preprogramed with the capacity to perceive G-d. When we deviate from the Torah and the teachings of the Hakhamim, this is impossible. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. This is an unyielding mind devoted to opposing G-d and G-dly truth/practice. Its dealings are strict, harsh cruel and merciless. Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature.* [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. This is the result of being “cut off” from G-d. The language uses terms of sexual impropriety as an allegorical way of telling us that the person or persons are bereft of G-d or any ethical mores. *Theological dictionary of the New Testament*. 1964-c1976. Vols. 5-9 edited by Gerhard Friedrich. Vol. 10 compiled by Ronald Pitkin. (G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley & G. Friedrich, Ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. 1:490 [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. In much of the Nazarean Codicil, demonic possession is associated with ritual impurity. While, Hakham Tsefet (Peter the wise) learned at Caesarea not to call Gentiles unclean, those who vehemently oppose the Torah are in some way subjected to unclean Shedim. This is not to say that all Gentiles are “unclean,” G-d forbid. Rather it is noteworthy to mention that direct opposition against the Torah, as a way of life is the mission of two-thirds of the shedim / fallen angels. Therefore, the darkened mind refers to those Gentiles who are either simply ignorant of the Torah as a way of life, and, those who are vehemently opposed to it because of their “**unyielding obstinacy of mind.**” Hakham Shaul’s view of the Gentile in Ephesians is the same as his view in his Letter to the Romans 1:18-32. Here Hakham Shaul takes the position that the lack of ability to comprehend G-d is a willful opposition against the Torah/G-d. [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. Philo uses κλέπτω – *klepto*to describe the “kidnapper” or one who enslaves other by means of purchasing those in need. His scheme brings other under his submission. He himself does not do honest work with his own hands. Therefore,  as  Hakham Shaul suggests, let him do honest work with his OWN hands and SHARE with the community rather than enslave others. Thielman, agrees with this idea suggesting that this is not the agrarian laborer being addressed. He suggests that the upper class is “stealing” from the laborer by demanding heavy labor for little or no money. This would keep the laborer in constant need. This practice would be equal to kidnapping and slavery. Thielman, F. (2010). *Ephesians.*Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. p. 315 [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. The connection of the thief to the community must be addressed. The thief can no longer steal for a living he must be put to work. However, the community must address his needs as well. The two qualities confidence and truth/honesty when applied to the community create an atmosphere where communal trust can transpire. This cannot happen when you have someone in the community that is a thief. This analogy of the thief and the congregation is very apropos when we see the  two ministries of Parnas 1 and 3 united. The first Parnas represents energetic initiative and stamina. The thief lacks energetic initiative and his resolve for stamina is thievery. Thievery requires no stamina at all. The daily labor of construction requires true stamina. The third Pastor is the channel for all the energies of the previous officers. She can deal with characteristics that no other officers can. The first Pastor/Parnas addresses the attribute of laziness associated with the thief. The third pastor brings the thief in connection with the community. When this happens, the “thief” can no longer steal from his “brothers.”   He must now work and labor as an integral part of the community. This is how the bondservant is addressed in the Jewish community. He is judged and brought before his kinsman for redemption. He is then taught the economy of the Jewish community. When he has learned firsthand through his kinsman/redeemer to correctly interact with the community, he can re-enter the community. The compassion and nature of the third pastor makes all of this possible. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. The true character of the thief is one who will not share what he has. On one level, we see that the thief takes from someone who has. On another level, the thief will not share. This was the greatest crime of Sodom and Gomorrah. [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. This statement shows that there must be structure to society. This perfectly matches that ministry of the 3rd Parnas who would have been involved in distributing necessary resources from the Congregation. If, as Hoehner suggests  that  the agrarian laborer struggled in times when there was no labor, the community would have been capable of supporting these cases. However, this would require giving by all the Congregation who had something to give. Hoehner, H. W. (2002). *Ephesians, An Exegetical Commentary.*Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. pp. 624-5

    [↑](#footnote-ref-86)