**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?

My heart and imagination were fired by Devarim 16:7 from the Targum:

*And you will dress and eat it in the place which the LORD your God will choose, and in the early morn (****if need be****) you may return from the feast, and go to your cities.*

This verse suggests that HaShem desires our closeness to the Temple, His connection point with us.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:7?

**If there will be among you a needy person** – Which needy person has priority?

**from one of your brothers** – Which of our brothers has priority?

**[in one of] your cities** – Which city has priority in our giving?

**you shall not harden [your heart]** – How do we harden our heart?

**[nor close your hand] from your needy brother** – What is the meaning of ‘needy brother’?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:8?

**[Rather] you shall open [your hand]** – How often should we open?

**[Rather] you shall open [your hand]** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: כִּי־פָתֽחַ תִּפְתַּח ?

**and you shall lend** – What is to be done if he will not accept charity?

**[lend him] sufficient for his needs** – How much should we give?

**[sufficient for his needs,] what he is lacking** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

**he [is lacking]** – What is the meaning of this Hebrew phrase: יֶחְסַר לוֹ ?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:9?

**and he will cry out [to the Lord] against you** – Is he required to cry out?

**and it will be a sin to you** – When will it be a sin to me?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:10?

**You shall surely give him** – How often should I give?

**Him** – What is the meaning of this word?

**for because of this thing** – What is the meaning of this Hebrew word: דָָּבָר?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:11?

**Therefore** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew pasuk: עַל־כֵּן?

**Saying** – What is being said?

**[You shall surely open your hand] to your brother, to your poor one** - To which brother?

**to your poor one** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: לַעֲנִיֶּךָ?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:12?

**If [your brother...] is sold to you** – Who is selling him?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:14?

**You shall surely provide him** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: הַעֲנֵיק תַּעֲנִיק?

**[You shall surely provide him] from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your vat** – Should we give only these things?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:19?

**Every firstborn male... you shall sanctify [to the Lord]** - But elsewhere (Lev. 27:26) it says, “[But the firstborn which will be a firstborn for the Lord of the livestock,] no man shall sanctify it.” How is this [reconciled]?

**You shall neither work with the firstborn of your ox, nor shear [the firstborn of your flock]** – What do we derive from this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 15:21?

**[And if there be any] blemish [in it]** – What are the limits to this?

**lame, or blind** – Are these the only limits?

**any ill blemish** – What do we learn from this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 16:9?

**from [the time] the sickle is first put to the standing crop** – When do we do this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 16:15?

**and you will only be happy** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 16:16?

**and he shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed** – What should we bring?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Deut. 16:17?

**[Every] man [shall bring] as much as he can afford** – How is this to be applied?

1. What in the Torah Seder this week fired the imagination of the Psalmist as he penned Psalm 119: ‎137-176‎?

The Psalmist was fired by the word ‘hand’ as in ‘**open our hand’.**

1. What in the Torah Seder this week fired the imagination of the prophet in the Ashlamatah of Amos 8:4‎ff?

The Prophet was fired by the word ‘needy’.

1. How does Tehillim 119:162. Relate to circumcision and Chanukah?

The Rabbis, of the Talmud, interpret ‘Your word’ to apply to circumcision, according to Rashi. The Greeks tried to abolish circumcision because they did not want to mar the body.

1. What in the Torah Seder, Psalm and Prophetic Lesson for this week fired the imagination of Hakham Tsefet as his scribe penned Mark 15:16-21?

**TORAH SEDER**

The Death and crucifixion of Yeshua takes place on Pesach. Connecting our pericope of Mark to the ‎Torah Seder D’barim (Deuteronomy) 16:1ff

**TEHILLIM (Psalms)**

Psalm 119:155. Salvation is far from the wicked, for they did not seek Your statutes matches the ‎activities of the Roman cohort in their abuse of the Master.‎

**ASHLAMATAH (Prophet’s Lesson)**

The dark day described by the Prophet matches that day of Yeshua’s crucifixion and death.‎

1. In your opinion what key message/s did Hakham Tsefet try to convey in Mark 15:16-21?

Hakham Tsefet was telling us that Yeshua was being executed for being a King of the Gentiles and the Jews.

1. 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?

Now is a propitious time to open our hand to the needy in acknowledgement of HaShem and His king.