**Some Questions to Ponder:**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat, which reading touched your heart and fired your imagination?

I was intrigued by the theme of zealousness that permeated the readings. We see this even in the Nazarean Codicil where His deciples were zealous for the Torah.

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 25:11?

**Phinehas the son of Eleazar the son of Aaron the kohen** – Why was his lineage traced to Aharon?

**by his zealously avenging Me** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: בְּקַנְאוֹ אֶת־קִנְאָתִי?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 25:13?

**It shall be** – What shall be?

**an eternal covenant of kehunah** – Why was the kehuna not given to him previously?

**for his God** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: לֵאלֹהָיו?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 25:14?

**The name of the Israelite man** – Why is this Israelite man named here?

**the chieftain of the Simeonite paternal house** – Why state ‘the chieftain’ here?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 25:15?

**The name of the slain... woman...** – Why was she named?

**a national leader** – Who was this national leader?

**a paternal house** – Which paternal house is being singled out?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 26:5?

the family of the Hanochites – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: מִשְׁפַּחַת הַחֲנֽכִי?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 26:13?

**from Zerah** – Who was Zerah?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 26:24?

**from Jashub** – Who is Jashub?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 26:36?

**And these were the descendants of Shuthelah...** – Why were these descendants call after Shuthelah?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 26:38?

**from Ahiram** – Who is Ahiram and why was he called this name?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 26:39?

**from Shupham** – Who is Shupham and why was he called this name?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 26:42?

**From Shuham** – Who is Shuham?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 26:46?

**The name of Asher’s daughter was Serah** – Why is a woman named here?

1. In your opinion what is the intent of Hakham Tsefet’s pericope by the hand of his scribe Mordechai (Mark) for this Shabbat?

To teach us how to ask appropriate questions. Further, it is to teach us something of the nature of Mashiach ben David.

Walter Oakley: In short, Yeshua demonstrates that he is the “Messenger of the Covenant” in the same way that Moshe and David were both Messengers of the Covenant.” Yeshua was ushering in a new dynamic of Torah life, which was in harmony with the rabbinic system.

Vivian Kuala: To establish the lineage of His Majesty King David and therefore of Yeshua as that of King/Messiah.

Lukas A. Nelson: The intent was to focus the readings into the light of Messianic thought; to give hope and a direction to the intent of the upcoming season.

Dr. Elizabeth Oakley: I believe that the greatest message Hakham Tsfet gave me this week is to be a “Covenant Keeper.” We should submit ourselves to the Angel of the Covenant and be his servants; Royal authority rules.

Lloyd Nelson: To bring clarification to the concept and character of Messiah ben David.

Eli Kuala: My humble opinion is there will be a form of “dominion by the Lord’s decree in exchange for sitting in study of Torah” and your enemies will become a prop for your feet. This will be the true dominion?

1. In what way does the Torah, Psalm, Prophetic reading of Malachi, and Mark 12:35-37a point to the fact that this is the first of three penitential Sabbaths?

Each reading uses key penitential words. For example: BaMidbar 25 speaks of the fate of sinners who do not repent and the fate of the righteous who do repent. The Psalmist speaks of *judgments*, the Ashlamata speaks of *purifuying* and *refining* as well as *judgment*, and the special Ashlamata speaks of the one who did not abandon the covenant.

Walter Oakley: The Torah Seder presents a census because Moshe was nearing the end of his reign as the leader of Yisrael. In the Ashlamatah of Malachi, the Messenger comes to clear the way of the wicked. This was the root cause for the Temple’s destruction. In the Special Ashlamatah Eliyahu suffers depression because of Jezebel’s threats. This is a picture of the Yisrael’s loss of the Temples and sufferings. In Hakham Tsefet’s pericope David is told to sit (study in Yeshiva) until HaShem sets his enemies under his feet. This can be seen as a time of loss and preparation for the future. And, by the repeated use of the phraseology “the last days.”

Vivian Kuala: B’Midbar: The “Redeemer” Phineas is defamed, but he is honoured by being counted in the lineage of Aaron; Korach and the 250 are missing, but the sons of Korach did not die because they repented; some of the families are missing because they turned back, but the ones remaining carry on the lineage of the tribe; Joseph is humbled among the nations, but exalted by Ha-Shem and the sin of the lie told his father is rectified by Sarach, the daughter of Asher.

Psalm: v. 7 “his judgments are extended over all the earth.”

Mal. 2:6 “...and he turned many back from sin.” Mal 3:1-6 – to test, to purify, offerings, acceptance; 3:7 change in doing yields abundance

Mark 12:35-37a – the connection to the Messenger of the Covenant, who comes in judgment, whose enemies are to be made the footstool of his feet. [That’s a good time to repent, so that one is not counted among his enemies.]

Hakham Haggai: The word covenant is central to the readings. When the covenant degenerates to the point that the Angel of the Covenant must return to restore it.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and imagination of the Psalmist for this week?

The Psalmist was fired by the covenant that was made with Phinehas and is a reflection of the covenants made with the Patriarchs.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophet this week?

The Prophet was also fired by the covenant which was made with Phinehas. He notes that it was a covenant of peace that was based on Phinehas’ perfect learning of the law which he used to render his judgment. Further the Prophet speaks of this covenantal person as a priest. Finally, as Phinehas was made an Angel of the covenant who is to announce the redemption at the end of days, so also does the Prophet speak of a messenger in the end of days to allude to Phinehas.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophet in the Special Ashlamata?

This Prophet alludes to Phinehas who was singled out as a man who acted on HaShem’s behalf, by speaking of Elijah who was also singled out in this portion for his Deeds on behalf of HaShem. They were both zealous for HaShem. Both Phinehas and Elijah acted as priests in the slaying of the wicked.

1. What part/s of the Torah Seder, Psalm, and the prophets fired the heart and the imagination of Hakham Tsefet for this week?

Walter Oakley: TORAH SEDER

Phin’chas is the “messenger of the covenant” as seen from the Targum Pseudo Yonatan. (B’Midbar 25:12) However, Phin’chas is also a prototypical David and Messiah. His anointing into the office of the Priesthood makes him a “Messiah.” His zealous persona is later seen in the person of David who was zealous for the Lord. This corresponds with Yeshua as the messenger of the Covenant.

TEHILLIM

The Psalmist seems to play on the sovereignty of G-d and the remembrance of the covenant. This can be seen as we look at the depicted character of David from Hakham Tsefet’s pericope. David waits (sits in Yeshiva) while the Lord brings his enemies to an end.

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1. After taking into consideration all the above texts and our Torah Seder, what would you say is the general prophetic message from the Scriptures for this coming week?

Be zealous for HaShem by taking your Torah learning seriously!

Dr. Elizabeth Oakley: We must be careful to be Covenant Keepers by recognizing the Angel of the Covenant and his Authority. We should maintain a desire to see the community unified under the dictates of both the written and oral Torah. In doing these things, we are preparing the way for the Angel of the Covenant to appear.

Lloyd Nelson: Go into this next week with humility and repentance of heart. We need to sit in “y’shv”= Yeshiva, Knowing Messiah ben David is at the door and could open it any day.

Lukas A. Nelson: Place heaven in your heart this day and let its truth lead you toward the zeal needed in this age and at this season. Baruch Adonai, El Shaddai!

Eli Kuala: One must continually sit and study Torah for this is the way of dominion of your enemies, this is what the Lord has sworn and will not turn aside. Only be careful not to brazenly denigrate the leaders he has appointed less it opens the door to destruction of the people.

Vivian Kuala: Stay humble and be counted among those who walk with Ha-Shem.

Walter Oakley: Torah Study is the best way to wait on HaShem.

Hakham Haggai: It is important to tithe because it is our perfection.