

**Announcement: My Facebook Account has been Hacked**

If you see a picture of me in a tuxedo, that is the hacked account  
I am not selling anything!! I am not asking for contributions!!

**Beth Tephila Messianic Jewish Congregation**  
(Under same management for over 5784 years)

# SHABBAT SERVICE

**August 17th -10:30AM - Lolo Community Synagogue**  
**12:30PM Oneg Shabbat & Torah Discussion**

You shall walk in the way which the lord your God has commanded you,  
that you may live, and that it may be well with you,  
and than you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.



### Deuteronomy 3:23

וַאֲתַחֲנַן אֶל־יְהוָה בְּעֵת הַהוּא לֵאמֹר:  
וַאֲתַחֲנַן אֶל יְהוָה בְּעֵת הַהוּא לֵאמֹר

Va-et'chanan el-Adonai ba-'et ha-hee lemor,  
And I pleaded to the Lord at that time saying,

אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה אַתָּה הַחִלּוֹת לְהַרְאוֹת אֶת־עַבְדְּךָ אֶת־זְרֹכְךָ וְאֶת־יַד הַחֲזָקָה  
אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה אַתָּה הַחִלּוֹת לְהַרְאוֹת אֶת עַבְדְּךָ אֶת גְּזֹלְךָ וְאֶת יַד הַחֲזָקָה

**Adonai Elohim Atah hachilota l'har'ot et-av'd'cha et-gohd'l'cha  
v'et-yad'cha ha-chazkah**

Oh Lord God, You have begun to show your servant your greatness  
and your strong hand

### **Deuteronomy 4:1**

וְעַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁמְעוּ אֶל־הַחֻקִּים וְאֶל־הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מְלַמֵּד אֶתְכֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת  
וְעַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁמְעוּ אֶל הַחֻקִּים וְאֶל הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מְלַמֵּד אֶתְכֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת

**V'atah Yisra'el sh'ma el-hachukim v'el-hamishpatim  
asher anochi m'lamed etchem la'asot**

And now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments,  
which I am teaching you to do

לְמַעַן תֵּחָיוּ וּבִאתֶם וִירְשֶׁתֶם אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם נָתַן לָכֶם  
לְמַעַן תֵּחָיוּ וּבִאתֶם וִירְשֶׁתֶם אֶת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם נָתַן לָכֶם

**I'ma'an tichyu uvatem virishtem et-ha'arets  
asher Adonai Elohey avoteychem noten lachem**

in order that you may go in and take possession of the land,  
which the Lord, the God of your fathers is giving you.

### **Haftarah Isaiah 40:27-31**

Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden  
From the Lord, and the justice due me escapes the notice of my  
God.”? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting  
God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become  
Weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. And to him who  
lacks might, He increases power. Though youths grow weary and  
tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait  
for the Lord will gain new strength. They will mount up with wings  
like eagles. They will run and not get tired.  
They will walk and not become weary.

### **B'rit Hadashah – Matthew 21:9**

And he multitudes going before Him, and those who followed after  
were crying out, and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David.

**Baruch Haba B'Shem Adonai**

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!”

**"Sh'ma Yisrael" .....Hear, Oh Israel**



As was said last week, Moses was making his parting shot at providing for his people instruction that would give them peace and prosperity in their "promised land." He began with a rebuke for their former way of life that included immorality and idolatry. In this Torah portion, Moses calls his people to obedience. God has given His people commandments, statutes, and ordinances. Moses tried to impress upon the people their need to obey God's laws, if they want to prosper, as they cross the Jordan River and enter into a new life in the land He promised to Abraham and his descendants. Some Rabbinic commentary says that life in the land is a gift that must be **individually earned** (merited) with emphasis on **the individual working** to achieve this gift. Moses taught the Jewish people (and by extension, us today) how it is possible to keep God's laws: Moses called upon the people to love God; to make God the focus of their lives, so that there would be ample evidence of the out-working of their love for God in their daily lives. Note that the **emphasis of Moses was on God, rather than each individual**. Also note that our Shabbat liturgy revolves around exalting God, rather than ourselves, individually.

## Why Aren't Our Prayers Answered?

Our Torah portion begins with Moses' cry to God, "va-et'chanan el-Adonai.." "**and I pleaded to the Lord...**" God allowed Moses to lead the people to victory against Sihon, King of Heshbon and Og, King of Bashan. So Moses begged God to allow him to ...cross over and see the fair land that is beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon" (3:25). In response, **God became "furious" ("Yitaber")** with Moses and admonished him never to speak about this again. God would allow Moses to view the land from the top of Pisgah (overlooking the Dead Sea), but that was as close to the land as Moses would come. Joshua would lead the people into the land and divide it between the tribes of Israel, as their inheritance.

Much in Rabbinic literature is made over the fact that Moses, who was Israel's first...and perhaps greatest... prophet, was kept from leading the people across the Jordan, continuing to defeat God's enemies, and continuing to provide the Jewish people

with God's words. Didn't God choose Moses, and didn't Moses give God his whole life? Surely Moses made mistakes, but don't we all make mistakes? If Moses could not get his prayer answered, what hope is there for us today? Certainly there are times when many of us have wondered why God has not heard our voices and not answered our prayers. Have we not been "good enough" or worked hard enough? Has there been some time in the past when our life did not measure up, and now we're "paying the price?" Since..."we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose..." (**Romans 8:28**), why is it that sometimes God does not seem to answer our prayers?

Moses, himself, answers this question in Chapter 4:7, "For (**"Ki mi-goy"**) what great (gentile, pagan) nation" is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord our God, whenever we call on Him? Rabbinic commentary correctly asserts, "why should we go running after other gods and other religions, when even pagan nations can see how close our God is to us." God did hear Moses' pleading and did answer him. And God does hear our prayers and does answer us. Moses was listening and understood God's answer. He was not happy with God's answer, but he accepted it....and His answer did "work together for good..." "...according to God's purpose." While God did not allow Moses to "cross over," he did allow Moses to supernaturally "see" the land of Abraham's inheritance. Had Moses not prayed or had Moses been so upset with God's answer that he quit following God, Moses may have not been allowed the privilege of seeing the land. **Many times we think that God has not answered our prayers, when we have not taken the time to listen or not waited for God's timing for His answer. Perhaps we have gone ahead with what we thought was best, asking God to bless our plans.** Perhaps, like Moses, we did not like God's answer, but we became so upset that we could not follow God's plans and therefore missed the blessing God gives to everyone who entrusts himself to God's purposes. We should take the example of Moses to heart. We must trust that God's answer to our prayer is for our own good and is consistent with His plans for our life. For Moses, the consequence of disbelief ("Because you have not believed Me, to treat me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel..." **Numbers 20:12**) was to die outside the "promised land." **The application for us is to understand that God holds leaders to a higher standard of obedience than others.** One public indiscretion was sufficient to keep Moses out of the land. **Yet God still uses those who repent of their misdeeds,** as He used Moses right to the end of his life, publicly turning over the duties of leadership to Joshua and exhorting Joshua to be strong and courageous; the Lord would not fail him nor forsake him (**Deut.31:3,7-8**). **Moses trusted God even in disappointment, so should we!**

## **A Prescription from the Great Physician**

When one goes to the doctor, one entrusts himself to his doctor's protective care. The doctor may send with you **a prescription** to make and keep you healthy. In Chapter 4, God through Moses gives His people a prescription for peace and prosperity in the land of their inheritance: "And now, Oh Israel, **listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform** in order that you may live and go in and take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you."



Five times in **Chapter 4** and nine times in this Parsha, Moses tells the people that they must keep God's "**statutes and ordinances**" (judgments) because obeying God by keeping His "**chukim umishpatim**" is God's prescription for having abundance in their land along with peace and security. Hearing (listening to) God's words means more than mere ritual assent to the words, themselves. Really "hearing" God's words implies **an inward hearing that results in performing them...**"for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, **who will hear** all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people'" (vs.5). **The daily living of God's law is both a prescription for success in their inherited land and a "light to the gentiles," revealing the God of Israel to them.** Keeping God's law is so very important that Moses reiterates this fact five times in the first 23 verses, using phrases like "**remember,**" "**beware lest you forget,**" and "**watch yourselves lest you forget.**" Moses knew the history of his people and their tendency to become involved with immorality and idolatry and warned them against doing so. Moses reminded the people that his own disobedient behavior brought the judgment of God, keeping him from entering the land. Then Moses "changed gear" from fatherly warnings to prophetic utterance. Moses predicted that after the people had lived in the land for a long time, they would forget his warnings and make idols for themselves. They would be expelled from the land, persecuted until they are few in number, and be scattered among the Gentile nations, where they would remain among their foreign gods (Assyrian & Babylonian captivities and Roman dispersion). Then, "in the latter days" (vs.30) there would be a national repentance. When they were in distress, they would again seek the Lord with all their heart and all their soul. Then they would again return to the Lord and "listen to His voice." And the Lord would have compassion on His people because of the covenant promises He made with their fathers.

**Personal Note:** While Israel is in distress today, the nation looks to their armed forces for salvation from their enemies and to their own fragmented political coalition to keep their government together. I believe that there will come a time, perhaps in my lifetime, when the enemies of Israel will overwhelm their military, leaving them only their God to protect them. I believe that only when they "come to the end of their rope" will they **repent as a nation and turn to God.** Isn't this the same with many of us?

## Promises.....Promises

It might be noted here that **some promises made to the Jewish people are apparently just the opposite of those promises made to the church.** For Jews, obedience to God means living in the promised land in prosperity, peace and security, while disobedience brings persecution. **For the church, obedience to God produces abundant life but also brings persecution:** "And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Messiah, Yeshua will be persecuted" (**2nd Timothy 3:12**). The point made here is that **God's promises to the nation of Israel have not become promises made to the church.** God will keep His covenant promises to Israel! "Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them" (vs.37). One of God's best promises is found in the familiar **John 3:16:** "For God

so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever (Jew or Gentile) believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

**Thought Question: When a Jewish believer in Messiah marries a gentile believer in Messiah, is the Jew drawn away from Jewish traditions to the faith community of the gentile? What could be the consequences? Conversely, what are the advantages to the gentile believer, who becomes part of the believing Jewish community?**

## **The Ten Commandments: A Bilateral Covenant**

In **Chapter 5:1**, "Moses summoned all Israel, and said to them, 'Hear O Israel' "(Sh'ma Yisrael)." Moses reminded the people that their bilateral covenant with God made at Sinai that promised peaceful enjoyment of the "promised land," if they obeyed God's law, was unlike the previous, unilateral deed to the land given by God to the patriarchs. God gave this bilateral covenant to the people via direct communication with Moses (literally, "face to face") on Mt Sinai and required them to obey the Ten Commandments (which Moses reiterated here), so "...that it may be well with them and with their sons forever;.... that you may live, and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess" (5:29,33).

In **Hebrews 8:6-12**, followers of Messiah are promised a better covenant enacted upon better promises; **a covenant that can be kept because it will be written in their hearts.**

## **Keeping the Commandments by Loving God**



**"For I will not trust in my bow, nor will my sword save me.  
But Thou hast saved us from our adversaries,  
and Thou hast put to shame those who hate us." (Psalm 44: 7-8)**

**Chapter 6 contains the famous "watch-words" of our Jewish faith  
that are said at every Shabbat service, every week  
in every Jewish congregation in every country in the world:**



שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד׃

"Sh'ma Yisra'el Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad."

"Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one!" (6:4)

וְאַהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לְבָבְךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשֶׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ׃

"Ve'ahavta et-Adonay Eloheycha bechol-levavcha uvechol-nafshecha uvechol-me'odecha."

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Verses 6-9: "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;

(We should internalize them.) And you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up (at all times).

And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead

(keeping God's law within you...symbolized by wearing tephilin).



And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (keeping God's law in your home and as a witness to those who pass by..... symbolized by fixing a Mezuzah to one's doorpost).

**Loving God with our total being keeps the focus of our lives on Him, which enables us to obey Him!**

God considers our obedience to Him as righteousness (verse 25)!

## **Loving God by Being Ruthless with Sin**

**Chapter 7** reiterated that God's people must not worship other gods. When Israel entered the land, where heathen Canaanite tribes worshiped their pagan gods, God would fight for His people and defeat those tribes. God's people were told to "utterly destroy them" (7:2). This is what has been called the "**cherem**" judgment....."**totally**

**devoted to destruction,**" making no covenant of protection with them, **showing them no favor, nor allowing any intermarriage with them.** They were to separate themselves entirely from pagan nations.

The application for us today is that **God's people are to be totally ruthless with sin in our lives from any source. We are to totally remove it, so that it does not serve to separate us from worship and obedience to God.** We are a Holy people to God because He chose us to be His people, as fulfillment of His promise to the Patriarchs. God's people must know that God is faithful in keeping His covenantal promises by showing **covenantal kindness ("chesed")** to ..."those who love Him and keep His commandments; but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them..." (vs. 9,10). So today, let us "covenant" together that we will obey God's words and daily live in fellowship with Him!

# Shabbat Shalom

## The continuing crisis in Israel calls for continued prayer

- For all plans of retaliation against Israel to fail. May the unprecedented events of recent days that threaten to tip the Middle East into all-out war, instead set the stage for lasting peace.
- For all the hostages to be set free, speedily and soon. "He has sent me . . . to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound" (Isa 61:1).
  - For many within the ranks of Hamas and Hezbollah to see the futility and wickedness of their hatred of Israel and the Jewish people, turn away from it, and drop their arms.
  - For the children of Gaza and the Palestinian territories to be freed from the indoctrination toward hatred in their schools. For seeds of understanding and peace to be sown among both the Arab and Israeli populations.
- For deep repentance within Israel over the growing divisions and discord there. Pray for wise and sacrificial leadership that can help bring the people of Israel together.
  - For mercy and minimal harm upon civilians on all sides, and for a growing awareness and turning toward the one true God among them all.
  - Against the rising tide of antisemitism around the world. Pray with authority against the demonic forces of hatred directed at the Jewish people.

*Arise, Adonai! May Your enemies be scattered! May those who hate You flee from before You! (Num 10:35)*