



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries
PO Box 467, Organ, NM 88052-0467
866-874-7250 * Fax: 866-800-2390
tolmm@etz-chayim.org * www.etz-chayim.org

Message 9-4-10
Nitzavim-You Are Standing
Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

VaYelech - and he went
Deu. 31:1-30
Isa. 55:6-56:8
John 4:7-14

Introduction

This week we have a double Parashah or Portion. In *Nitsavim* Moses continues his climatic deathbed speech on the banks of the Jordan, with a simple phrase, *attem nitzavim*, "You are standing," collectively, before God for one reason only: to conclude a *b'rit* or covenant.

The second Parashah is *VaYelech* which means "and then he went," a reference to Moses' appearance among the people to announce that, at the age of 120, he is too old to continue as an active leader.

Deuteronomy 31:24-26

24 When Moses had finished writing the words of this Torah in a book to the very end, **25** Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, **26** "Take this Book of the Torah and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against you. (Deu 31:24 ESV)

We are very near the end of the Torah cycle and it would appear that Moses had been compiling the Torah over a 40 year period of time. So, the question has to be asked what did he do for 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai 40 years before and how about the second 40 days and nights after he broke the first set of stone tablets? What did he receive from the Lord on Mount Sinai and what did he compile for 40 years? It is interesting that Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai two times and then spent 40 years writing it down into a book and gave it to the priests to place by the side of the Ark of Testimony containing the covenant between God and Israel.

From the Jewish Book of Numbers: Forty is an important round number, indicating a relatively long period of time. The length of a generation, for example, is approximately forty years.

The span of human life is three times forty years (Genesis 6:3).

Genesis 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." (Gen 6:3 ESV)

The years to attain full adulthood (Joshua 14:7).

Joshua 14:7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. (Jos 14:7 ESV)

The time span representing old age is two times forty years (2 Samuel 19:33).

2 Samuel 19:33 And the king said to Barzillai, "Come over with me, and I will provide for you with me in Jerusalem." **34** But Barzillai said to the king, "How many years have I still to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? **35** I am this day **eighty** years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or what he drinks? Can I still listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? **36** Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king repay me with such a reward? (2Sa 19:33 ESV)

Years of Israelite wanderings in the wilderness (Exodus 16:35).

Exodus 16:35 The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan. (Exo 16:35 ESV)

Years for which the land of Israel had rest (Judges 3:11).

Judges 3:11 So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died. (Jdg 3:11 ESV)

Total number of years of various reigns of kings.

Days of the deluge in the time of Noah (Genesis 7:4).

Genesis 7:4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." (Gen 7:4 ESV)

Days for which Moses remained on the top of Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18).

Exodus 24:18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. (Exo 24:18 NKJ)

Days of scouting of the spies (Numbers 13:25).

Numbers 13:25 And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. (Num 13:25 NKJ)

Days of the stand of Goliath (1 Samuel 17:16).

1 Samuel 17:16 For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening. (1Sa 17:16 ESV)

Numbers of days until doomsday for the people of Ninevah (Jonah 3:4).

Jonah 3:4 Jonah started out and made his way into the city the distance of one day's walk, and proclaimed: "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (Jon 3:4 TNK)

Number of lashes for breaking the Torah (Deuteronomy 25:3).

Deuteronomy 25:3 He may be given up to forty lashes, but not more, lest being flogged further, to excess, your brother be degraded before your eyes. (Deu 25:3 TNK)

Temple measurements (Ezekiel 41:2).

Ezekiel 41:2 The entrance was 10 cubits wide, and the flanking walls of the entrance were each 5 cubits wide. Next he measured the depth *of the hall*, 40 cubits, and the width, 20 cubits. (Eze 41:2 TNK)

Forty thousand, indicating a very large number (Joshua 4:13).

Joshua 4:13 About 40,000 ready for war passed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. (Jos 4:13 ESV)

Moses took 40 years to write the Torah down and I have to imagine that Moses was permitted to do so by God because the Torah had been expanded to include a new nation born at Mount Sinai 40 years before and now they had to learn how to live Torah observant lives. Moses toiled for forty years as he learned to apply the Torah to the situations the Children of Israel found themselves in and would find themselves in until Messiah returns. I see the Torah that Moses received at Mount Sinai to be an outline that God allowed Moses to give meat to. What I mean is the Torah was flexible enough and Moses was capable to flesh it out to cover the situations Israel found itself during the forty years and what would come later.

There is so much that takes place during the first five books of the Bible I can never understand it when people tell me they find the Torah boring and they cannot learn anything from it. Moses spent the first 40 years of his life being raised in the house of Pharaoh as a prince of Egypt. He was educated and trained to be a future leader but God had other plans for Moses and the next 40 years of his life he spent in exile living in the home of Jethro and married his daughter Zipporah who bore him two children – two sons. Moses was being taught by God how to be a shepherd so he could lead the Lord's people on their journey from Egypt to Canaan and now we arrive at the end of the Torah where Moses is preparing to take his leave of the nation he has brought to the shores of the Promised Land. Moses was getting ready to die and was coming to the end of his life. He had spent 40 years leading Israel, the final 40 years of his life. Moses had lived for 120 years and the Lord was bringing Moses to the end of his time here on the earth.

Isaiah 55:1-3

1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. **2** Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. **3** Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an **everlasting covenant**, my steadfast, sure love for David. (Isa 55:1 ESV)

<05769> עולם or עולם (*olam or olam*) (761d)

Meaning: *long duration, antiquity, futurity*

<01285> בְּרִית (*berith*) (136b)

Meaning: *a covenant*

This week's Haftarah portion comes from God as He tells us to come to Him and drink and eat our fill but we are also told that bread will not satisfy us because what we need is to listen to the Word of God – the Torah, and we will be satisfied and if we listen and heed His Word He will make an everlasting covenant with us.

בְּרִית עוֹלָם (Isa 55:3 WTT)

In Hebrew this is called the *B'rit Olam*. This is our covenant with the Holy One of Israel made with Israel at Mount Sinai 3500 years ago and it was made even earlier with the Patriarch Abraham. It involved a profession of faith linked to following the Torah of the Lord our God. It is through this covenant that we receive the gift of eternal life and become part of Israel – the Israel God had intended from the beginning those who would become the bride of Messiah. But I should be more specific here. I believe that while we can all enter into Israel we need to understand there are different roles we play in this body. Years ago the Jewish people said there were three levels in Israel; the first was the Priests of the Aaronic Line, then the Levites of the three clans left after Aaron, and finally the people of Israel, the Israelites.

This lines up with the Apostolic Scripture parable of the wedding feast where we see three groups of people gathered for the wedding. The first group are the bride, the second the guests, and the third the servants.

From the Jewish Book of Numbers: The number three is a fairly common one in the Bible. At times it is quite difficult to ascertain whether it is used with precision or simply as a small round number. Of special importance is the use of the number three in sacred contexts, where it often conveys the notion of completeness, since it has a beginning, middle, and end. The universe was divided into heaven, earth, and the netherworld, which three pagan deities were said to represent. The family group of father, mother, and child also undoubtedly contributed to the significance of the number three.

In the Bible the number three has various religious associations.

When Abraham asked God how he would know that he possessed the land, God answered as follows: Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young bird. (Genesis 15:9)

For three years the eating of the fruit of a newly planted tree was forbidden. (Leviticus 19:23)

Three times a year you shall hold a Festival for Me. You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread...the Feast of the Harvest...and the Feast of the Ingathering (Exodus 23:14)

We learn of ritual purification taking place on the third day in the following verse: He shall cleanse himself with it on the third day. (Numbers 19:12)

In the Book of Daniel we learn of the custom of praying three times a day: Three times every day he kneeled upon his kness and prayed. (Daniel 6:11)

Other Scripture passages where the significance of the number three can be seen are:

Genesis 40:10-13, 1 Kings 17:21, Deuteronomy 19:7-9, Genesis 1:22, 1:28, 2:3.

The Aaronic Benediction in Numbers 6:24-26 uses God's Name three times with three blessings. In Isaiah 6:3 the number three is used in conjunction with superlatives relating to the Lord.

Revelation 21:6 And he said to me, "I am Aleph and I am Tau, the beginning and the completion. To the thirsty, I will give from the fountain of living water, freely. (Rev 21:6 MGI)

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And he who hears should say, 'Come.' And he who is thirsty should come and take the living water, freely. (Rev 22:17 MGI)

The covenant with God comes through the Messiah Yeshua. The water we receive from Him is living water tied to eternal life, His promise to those who are faithful to Him and follow His Torah, His instructions He gave to us in His Torah and explains them in the Gospel accounts in the Apostolic Scriptures. Messiah taught His Apostles and disciples the proper way to follow Torah. He did not come to replace the Torah only to bring the people back to the right road to walk. Torah is a lifestyle that comes from faith in God and the Son Yeshua. Faith in Yeshua brings the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) who helps us in our walk and comforts us when we need comforting and helps us to understand what the Lord is trying to teach us in the Bible. His gift of living water which will take away our thirst forever and the bread of life that will satisfy us forever are the fulfillment of covenant that He made with mankind before the foundations of the universe were laid. This is the promise He made before we were ever created. This was the promise His Son Yeshua brought to completion by agreeing to obey His Father in taking away the sins of the world in order that we may have life everlasting.

John 4:7-14

7 And a woman from Samaria came to draw water. And Yeshua said to her, "Give me water to drink," **8** for his disciples had entered the city to buy food for them. **9** That Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it [since] you are a Judean, yet you ask to drink of me, who am a Samaritan woman? For the Judeans do not deal with the Samaritans." **10** Yeshua answered and said to her, "If you were aware of the gift of God and who this is who said to you, 'Give me to drink,' you would ask him and he would give you living water." **11** That woman said to him, "My Lord, you have no water pot and the well is deep. Where [is] your living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and from which he and his sons and his flocks drank?" **13** Yeshua answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks from this water will thirst again, **14** but everyone who drinks from the water that I give him will not thirst forever. But that water that I give him will be in him a spring of water that will bubble up to eternal life." (Joh 4:7 MGI)

Once more we see Yeshua using water as the means to teach and share what faith in Him brings. This time He was sharing with a Samaritan woman. This is an example of those who are not born into the blood line of Israel being able to become part of the Body of Messiah by faith and obedience to Torah. The Samaritans were the result of intermarriage between the remnants left in the northern kingdom of Ephraim after the exile through the Assyrian captivity. The Jewish people looked down on the Samaritans as not being their equals but the truth of the matter is faith in Yeshua and following the Torah are not for the Jews alone. The covenant God made was with Abraham who was a Gentile from Ur of Chaldeans who came to Canaan because God told him to do so. Abraham was the father of all the faithful who become part of the covenant given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Patriarchs of Israel with Jacob being the first Israelite when his name was changed to Israel.

What we see from this passage is that God will not be limited by any man-made restrictions as to who can become part of His people. Ruth is a prime example of this and I love the fact that she becomes part of Israel and Judah and is an ancestor of the Messiah based on her profession

of faith in the God of Israel and becoming part of the people of Israel. Through Ruth Naomi, her mother-in-law, was blessed in seeing a grandson who would carry the promise of the future King David and ultimately the true king of Israel Yeshua the Messiah. He would be the Anointed One – the Mashiach who would take up the throne of His father David because of the prophecies of His first and second coming. Today we are waiting for the source of living water to come and quench our thirst and hunger by fulfilling His covenant made so long ago in order to redeem mankind from its sins.

This is the promise of the Torah and the covenant found in its pages. There is so much we can learn from studying the Torah my friends. It is the foundation for every book of the Bible that comes after it. Stand on this foundation and a whole new world of understanding the Word of God will open up to you. Be blessed!

Abe walks into the local tavern and sees his friend Moshe sitting at the bar. He puts his hand to his heart and yells, "Oy Vey, Moshe! I'm so sorry to hear about your shop burning down." Moshe spins around quickly and whispers, "Shhhh – it's tomorrow!"

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