



**Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!**

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**Message 9-25-10**  
**Vezot Haberachah-And This is the Blessing**  
**Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12**  
**Joshua 1:1-18**  
**John 14:21**

### **Introduction**

The title to this weeks Portion, V'zot Haberachah, simply means, "This is the blessing," a reference to Moses' final blessing for health, happiness, prosperity. Is this blessing original? No: it made its first appearance in Genesis with Jacob blessing his children. The blessing begins with Jacob or Israel over his children the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel and here at the end of the Torah Moses continues the blessing over Israel that began with Jacob the Patriarch of Israel.

### **Deuteronomy 33:1-4**

**1** This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the people of Israel before his death. **2** He said, "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand. **3** Yes, he loved his people, all his holy ones were in his hand; so they followed in your steps, receiving direction from you, **4** when Moses commanded us a Torah, as a possession for the assembly of Jacob. (Deu 33:1 ESV)

The Torah is the possession of the assembly of Jacob – the Children of Israel. What a blessing it was to them because God had chosen them out of all the nations of the earth who would ever exist to be the ones who received His holy teaching. Prior to Mount Sinai God had shared the Torah with various individuals throughout the generations from the beginning but from Mount Sinai forward He chose to share the Torah with a nation – Israel. When a group of people claim they are God's new chosen people or the new Israel part of that declaration is their following the Torah. If they choose to disregard the Torah then they are not God's people Israel. Any person or people who choose to follow the Torah and what it teaches become part of Israel they do not become a new people or nation. They become grafted in to the nation God chose as His own. This is the story of Deuteronomy the last book of the Torah and this is our last portion for the Torah cycle. We have come full circle where we have read through 54 Torah portions

throughout the year along with festival portions, Haftarah portions and Apostolic Scripture portions.

**Romans 11:17** And if some branches were broken off and you who are a wild olive [tree] were grafted into their places and became a sharer of the root and of the fatness of the olive [tree], (Rom 11:17 MGI)

**Romans 11:23** And those, if they do not remain in their lack of faith, will also be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. (Rom 11:23 MGI)

The Apostle Shaul (Paul) writes about the grafting in of the Gentiles among the Jewish branch into the tree of Israel whose root is Yeshua. In this way we all become part of the Olive tree of Israel but there are two requirements involved in this: faith in Messiah Yeshua and following the Torah. To reject one or the other will keep you from the tree that is Israel. This is a knowing rejection or blindness that has come upon a group or individual such as the Jewish people. In much the same way the Jewish people have been blinded to the truth that Yeshua is their Messiah, so too, the Church has been blinded to the truth of the Torah. As the Church emerged from the shadow of Judaism it brought along the custom and traditions of the pagan religions they had come from. As the Jewish Believers were rejected by Judaism and forced out of the synagogues they took knowledge of the Messiah with them. On both sides there was a rejection of something inherently important to the faith first given to our fathers at Mount Sinai and before that to the righteous men and women spoken about in the word of God.

Moses brought a light to Israel that helped them to find their way in the darkness of the Wilderness, a light that would eventually bring them to the Promised Land. While on their journey Moses would teach them the ways of the Lord and about His promises to them found in the Torah. Every step of the way God was walking with them in the form of Yeshua the Messiah of Israel the Lord's right hand.

Yeshua was the word become flesh and the word was the Torah and the Torah is the covenant of Israel and all of those who join themselves to Israel. Moses labored for forty years to bring the Torah to the people and he wanted to make sure that no one, no one, added anything else to it or took away from it. It was finished as far as he was concerned.

**Deuteronomy 4:2** You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. (Deu 4:2 ESV)

The restrictions Moses placed upon the Torah were to prevent exactly what the rabbis have done in adding to the Torah through their own rules and the church in taking away from the Torah. On the part of the rabbis they have gone far beyond the Torah in excluding God from the finished product on their part while the church has removed so many commandments from the Torah they have made it unrecognizable. For me I look forward to when Yeshua returns and instructs us how to follow the Torah properly. After Moses' time Israel struggled in following the Torah and God had told Moses that Israel would turn away from the Torah after his time. Because we are over 3500 years removed from when God gave Moses the Torah and Moses spent 40 years refining it we would have to assume that in the interim that the Torah is flexible, to a degree, in that we can do the best we can to follow the commandments we understand and to try to figure out those we do not understand.

We need to keep in mind that not understanding some of the commandments does not allow us to forsake the rest of the Torah. The Torah helps us to know what God expects from us. Many of the teachings given in the Torah were given to the Aaronic priesthood and the Levites who supported them in their work. Rules governing the Tabernacle, Temple and sacrificial system also make up many of the Torah teachings. The rules God gives us to follow are nowhere like the laws of man or those given by the rabbis of old as well as the rules the church gives. Man-made laws do not outweigh the teachings and instructions given by the Holy One of Israel to guide His people. This is what sets us apart from the other nations. While we may live in various countries throughout the world our citizenship is in God's kingdom and we look forward to Yeshua's return when He will be the teacher and arbiter of the Torah. Yeshua is the living Torah and it was from Him that Moses received what he gave to Israel.

### **Joshua 1:6-9**

**6** Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the Torah that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. **8** This Book of the Torah shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Jos 1:6 ESV)

Notice that God tells Joshua not to depart from the Torah but to walk the road that is straight and not to veer to the left or to the right. The Torah is perfect in its own right and power because it is a living, breathing word that finds its source in the Messiah Yeshua. Moses and all those who went before him and those who came afterwards knew of the hope of Israel. The hope of Israel was the knowledge that one day one would come who would bring the light into the darkness of the world to help them find their way to the doorway that leads to life everlasting.

**Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and will open the door, I will enter and I will eat supper with him and he with me. (Rev 3:20 MGI)

Yeshua has done His part and all we have to do is to do ours but we always hesitate and try to take shortcuts because we believe we know better than God how to get things done. That does not work for us because shortcuts don't get you where God wants you to be. God told Joshua if he stayed in the Torah and meditated on it day and night being careful to do what Moses taught Joshua would be prosperous and would have good success. God was building up Joshua's confidence because he had some giant sandals to fill. Joshua was the right hand of Moses for 40 years and Moses cast a giant shadow that Joshua stood under for all of that time. Now he was being called to take up the mantle of leadership from Moses and it would be in Joshua's hands to enter into the Promised Land and make it their own as God had promised them. Can you see the prophetic in how Joshua was at the right hand of Moses to help Him and how Yeshua is at the right hand of His Father to serve Him? Joshua in Hebrew is Ye-shi-yahu and is the Hebraic form of the Aramaic Yeshua so we see from this that Joshua is a form of Messiah. There are footprints of the Messiah all over the Tanach for us to learn from. It just a little bit of digging to get through the surface to see what is hiding in the word for us to

discover. I love reading the Bible. Every time I do new insights come out of it that simply reinforce what I believe. By learning to take Scripture in its context and to understand the times these books were written in and the audience a whole new world opens up for us and all we have to do is sit back and enjoy the ride.

God did not promise us it would be easy but just look at what our fathers had to go through in following the word of the Lord? God did not tell Joshua it would be an easy task to take the land but He did tell him that if he remained faithful to the Torah blessings would be given to him. Joshua and the Children of Israel had to work to get to the goal. God does not do all the work for you but asks us to step out in faith and obey Him and in return He promises us the gift of eternal life through His Son Yeshua. One day soon we will reap the reward of the promise of a new homeland where Yeshua will rule in Torah and one day we will be able to enter into the New Jerusalem where God the Father and Yeshua will be ruling from their thrones. The promise is not about heaven but about heaven here on the earth. All of those who have gone before us in the faith had the expectation of the one to come – Yeshua. They had the same hope we did. It is not about Judah or Ephraim or Jew and Gentile it is about the unity of the Body of Messiah. Despite our differences we must find common ground. We must look to those who have gone before us to see how they walked in the ways of Torah.

We need to walk in the ways of Torah as given by Moses as he received it from God not in the ways of the rabbis or in the ways of the church. Torah is pure and gives us the heart of God if we just reach out and grab hold of the Messiah Yeshua and make Him our own.

#### **John 14:21**

**21** He who has my commandments with him and keeps them, that [one] loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and I will show myself to him." (Joh 14:21 MGI)

Yeshua will not force Himself on you. You must make the free-will choice to accept Him as your Messiah and your Kinsman Redeemer. The plain fact of the matter is when the translators render the word used for Redeemer as simply redeemer they are doing a disservice to it.

<01350> גָּאֵל (*gaal*) (145b)

**Meaning:** *to redeem, act as kinsman*

The Hebrew used for redeemer is *ga-al* which is usually translated as redeemer but we lose the flavor and importance of what is being said if it were properly translated as kinsman redeemer because the implications of what is being said is our Redeemer is a close relative which means Yeshua is more than the Messiah He is related to us. Some will say how can that be because there are so many different people who have lived but the truth is if you accept the reality of the Bible we are all descended from Adam and Chava making us all related and since Yeshua was the means through whom the Father created everything there is especially us? We were the crowning act of creation on the sixth day of creation.

**Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created

them. **28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **29** And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. **31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Gen 1:26 ESV)

God said it was very good after he created all the animals and finished with man. If we follow the course of creation logically we see that mankind is descended from Adam and Chava, their children, Cain and Seth, down to the flood and from that Noah and his children after the flood but since Noah is connected to Adam pre-flood and survives the flood our connection to Adam and Chava is not severed but continues the unbroken chain right on up to today. If we believe that God created all there is through Yeshua His living Word then we are connected to Yeshua in a very intimate fashion which makes Him more than just our Redeemer it becomes entwined in a Biblical manner following the course of being our Kinsman Redeemer which ties together all of mankind from the beginning through the ages right up to now.

**Job 19:25** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. (Job 19:25 ESV)

**Psalms 19:14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Psa 19:14 ESV)

**Psalms 78:35** They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer. (Psa 78:35 ESV)

**Proverbs 23:11** For their Redeemer *is* mighty; He will plead their cause against you. (Pro 23:11 NKJ)

Who is at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf? Isn't it Yeshua our Kinsman Redeemer? The whole of Scripture points to Him and brings us right to Him. It is not difficult to get to Him it is only difficult if we make it that way. In every Scripture used here where we see Redeemer it is the same Hebrew word I showed you which actually means Kinsman Redeemer. The example, for us, in Scripture is the story of Ruth and Boaz. This is a perfect example of the Kinsman Redeemer and his place in the Torah and how Ruth was brought into the nation of Israel through her profession of faith but also by Boaz acting on her behalf as her kinsman redeemer which put the stamp of approval, so to speak, on her profession of faith. What we see here is the act of faith on Ruth's part and Boaz stepping out in Torah to seal the profession of faith. It has always been about stepping out in faith and accepting Yeshua as Messiah and in return He gives you the gift of eternal life but even more than that we seal this by following His teachings which all come from the Torah. He could not do anything otherwise because He is the living Torah – the Word of God made flesh!

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the word and that word was with God and God was that word. **2** This [word] was in the beginning with God. **3** Everything existed by his hand and without him not even one [thing] existed [of] that which existed. **4** In him was life and the life was the light of

men. **5** And that light brought light in the darkness and the darkness did not overtake it. (Joh 1:1 MGI)

This ends the Torah cycle and with this, my tenth *Journey Through Torah* commentary book, which will be my last commentary book in this series. After writing these books for the last ten years I have come to the point where I feel the Lord is telling me He has other work for me to do. I will continue to send out my weekly Torah commentaries as I have always done but I will no longer compile them into book form. I will begin a new series called *Insights* which will be commentaries on the books of the Apostolic Scripture books from a Messianic perspective. I will be starting with the letters of Shaul but I cannot say when the first book will come out. I have enjoyed being on this journey with you and may the Holy One of Israel bless you all.

***Abraham was reading an article out loud to his wife. "Did you know that women use about thirty thousand words a day, whereas men only use fifteen thousand words?" Sadie replies, "The reason has to be because a woman has to say everything twice." Abraham turns to Sadie and asks, "What?"***

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