

While Praying:

- * God speaks from heaven; we hear and enjoy our life of fellowship with God.
- * Be spiritually profitable; do visible acts and not just watch others do them.
- * Stay in fellowship with God; God's work in our lives resounds around us.
- * Be balanced and be faithful; have joy in all you do.

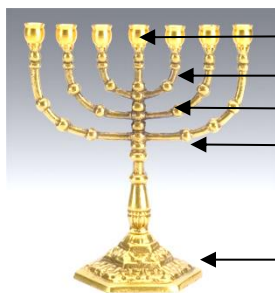
Beha'alotecha means, "when you set up." The portion Beha'alotecha begins with instructions about the menorah (lamp) for the Mishkan (Tent of Meeting). The menorah is said to form a tree; the base represents God and the menorah represents Yeshua the Messiah.

Isaiah 11:1-2 NKJV:

"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."

The stem in the middle of the menorah represents Yeshua the Messiah who was a descendent of Jesse. The three half circles make the other 6 branches of the menorah and represent each of the six characteristics of the Messiah mentioned in verse 2:

"The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."



Yeshua the Messiah
Wisdom and Understanding
Counsel and Might
Knowledge and Fear of Yehovah

Yehovah

The light from the menorah could not be seen from outside of the Mishkan. The Mishkan is where the presence of God was seen over the Mishkan as a cloud by day and fire by night. Believers in Messiah are filled with the light of the Holy Spirit and the presence of God. The Holy Spirit is referred to as the Messiah in us (Colossian 1:27). Yeshua gave Himself for us so that we could be lights to the world. Shaul tells us not to cause the Holy Spirit to be sorrowful (Ephesians 4:30) by disobeying God.

Yeshua (Jesus) said those **that don't** follow the Torah will be sent to the lake of fire. This scripture is talking about believers because they are prophesying and doing wonders in God's name. The word for the Torah in the Old Testament Greek is nomia. Anomia in the Greek means without Torah and that is the word in this verse where we find the word lawlessness (anomia). "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Matthew 7:22-23 NKJV (also see Hebrews 10:26-31).

We will be with God for eternity if we are working at keeping the Torah and all the New Testament commands. We must turn our face to God and follow Him and not turn our back on Him (Acts 2:38).

That's what **repent means – turning towards God**. If we sin, Yochanan says we can be forgiven. "If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing;" 1 John 1:9 CJB.

The L'vi'im (Levites) were then ceremonially cleansed and then the people of Israel laid hands on the L'vi'im (Levites) and they were a wave or elevation offering for Israel so the Levites could serve Israel at the Mishkan. Israel observed the Passover, but some were unclean. Those who were unclean were to observe the Passover in the second month on the 14th day of Iyar instead. A cloud covered the Mishkan during the day and at night it appeared as fire. When the cloud moved Israel would break camp and follow it. The portion then describes what they did for each type of trumpet blast from the two silver trumpets.

In the second year on the twentieth day of the second month Israel left Sinai (the 20th of Iyar) and the portion describes how they set out. The very same prayer that is said before the procession of the Torah scroll is in this portion starting in Numbers 10:35. The people were complaining and it angered the Lord. The spirit of God rested on the 70 elders and also two others. In response to the two others that prophesied, Moshe said that he wished all the Lord's people were prophets. The Lord sent them quail, but the Lord struck them with a plague for their complaining. Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moshe and Miriam was stricken with snow white scales; Moshe speaks to God on her behalf. She must remain outside the camp for 7 days and is healed. Israel remained encamped for 7 days while Miriam remained outside the camp and then they moved on when she returned. Also, it says that Moshe saw the likeness of God (יהוה) in Numbers 12:8.

We see Israel as a nation laying on hands so the L'vi'im (Levites) would serve them. There is an apparent transference taking place by this laying on of hands and that is what the laying on of hands is for. We especially see this on Yom Kippur when the priest atones for the sins of Israel by laying hands on the scapegoat (see Lev. 16). We see Yeshua touching others and they are healed. In the present, we often pray and lay on hands in God's name to impute God's healing, blessing, etc. (see Acts 4:29-30). As we lay on our hands, God stretches out His own hand to heal and bless.

The Torah procession at synagogue is a picture of Israel following God in the desert, of Israel obeying (following) God, of believers in Yeshua following God, and of believers in Yeshua following the lead of the Holy Spirit. Yeshua says to us, "Keep following me," in Matthew 16:24-25. Ritual can be a good thing as long as it doesn't turn into man-made law. A lot that we do in life is ritual. Some ritual is commanded by God like the laying on of hands (Numbers 8:10, 27:18; Mark 7:32, 10:16, 16:18; Acts 13:3). We are not to make any ritual not commanded by God into a law. Also in this portion, Moshe says that he wished all God's people were prophets. It has always been God's intention that we fellowship with God personally.

That close connection was lost when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, but the connection has been restored somewhat now through the gift of the Holy Spirit that all believers in Yeshua are to receive. Shaul says we still only know in part (1 Corinthians 13), but someday we will fully know all. It is not true that God did not speak to His people in the Tanakh (Old Testament portion). The entire Tanakh is filled with people encountering God and God speaking to them.

Also, we see dire consequences being administered by God to people who complain, have bad attitudes, or speak against God's anointed. Let us be ever mindful to avoid complaining, to avoid bad attitudes, and be careful what we say about those in spiritual authority. The rabbis say we should be careful not to

commit lashon hara, evil speaking. Miriam spoke against Moshe and God struck her with white scales on her skin.

In this portion, the 70 elders of Israel prophecy. Some nowadays think that God is distant; that God created the world and then left everything up to us. As we can see, that is not true. God speaks to man from heaven. We need fellowship with God; God speaks to us to help us. We need to hear from God and enjoy our life of fellowship with God. It says in Hebrews that Yeshua speaks from heaven, "See that you don't reject the One speaking! For if those did not escape who rejected him when he gave divine warning on earth, think how much less we will escape if we turn away from him when he warns from heaven;" Hebrews 12:25 CJB.

Shaul (Paul) tells us that we need to hear from God. "However, keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit; and especially seek to be able to prophesy;" 1 Corinthians 14:1 CJB. God wants to encourage us and comfort us. 1 Corinthians 14:3 CJB says, "But someone prophesying is speaking to people, edifying, encouraging and comforting them." This scripture says that prophecy is for encouraging us, lifting us up, and comforting us. Most people have the wrong idea about prophecy. Sometimes it may have to do with the future, but the Bible says it is mostly to help us. Beware of people who are fixated on future events. Yeshua said that no one knows the time of the end and many people have been hurt by false teachers preaching about the end times.

YouTube is filled with people trying to get people to watch their presentations and some do almost anything to try and get people to watch their videos. They try to get us interested in something or to get us all excited about something. Many of these people don't care about us at all; they just want us to be their followers. Often, they are getting us interested or excited about things that are just distractions to life. Don't listen to them. Kefa (Peter) said there will be greedy people who will try to exploit us. Listen to God instead. What could be wrong with God's words in the Bible or encouraging and comforting words of prophecy?

Isaiah 8:12-13 NIV says, "Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread." It was the complainers and the people stirring up the people in the dessert that God didn't like. Don't be fooled by these people online who are trying to get you rattled or concerned; instead, trust in God Isaiah says.

God was displeased with the people in this portion who were stirring things up. It says, "Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp;" Numbers 11:1 NKJV. Consider this; how do the news businesses pay their bills? It is by getting people to come back and watch their shows or read their material. It's a business. Also, don't support news programs that are deceitful or are preying on your fears. If you want to get the news, get reputable news. Also, protect your children from these people who are putting fear into people. God says, don't fear what they fear!

Spend your time doing things that are profitable spiritually. Also, do visible acts and not just watch others doing them. I talk about things that happened in the jungle, but I was actually there doing something and not just watching TV. It's great that we get to encourage others to stretch their faith. Better yet, we should be actively involved serving the Lord and doing something. It doesn't have to be something difficult.

Years ago, I had the opportunity to join someone who was going around my area of the country teaching and doing prayer services. I didn't think that much of it initially. I figured I had the time so why not. Little

did I know that I would be experiencing healings, miracles, and the presence and power of God. I had a great time.

Having a little time to do something is sometimes all it takes. I am a little astounded how naïve I was. God will even do little things through us to help others. It is an honor to be part of what God is doing, whether big or small.

Stay in fellowship with God; God working in our lives resounds around us. God can set things up for us and use us if we are willing. I had a vision of a woman before I went to the jungle to minister this one time I went. I thought that God must want me to meet her and he had a purpose for me talking to her. When I met her, I found out she was a teacher and I thought God wanted me to encourage her. So, I got an interpreter and told her that I had a vision of her before I came there. I told her I think that God wants me encourage you in your teaching. She burst out into tears; she needed to hear that. What would normally happen? The person would probably just say thank you.

So, we sat down to hear a teaching right after that and the person teaching was teaching on prophecy. He starts out by saying that God wants to encourage us and the prophetic is one of the ways He does that. He said that the prophetic shows God's love and it can show us that God knows us. He went on and on about this and I am sitting there thinking, this is just what happened. The woman who I had the prophetic word for got up and went to the back and began crying; the interpreter got up too and went in the back and he began crying. I was sitting there holding back tears and thinking that I can't believe what just happened. Things don't always happen so dramatically. By serving God, we never know how God may use what we do. One time I told someone to take a chance on God. I met him a year or two later and he thanked me for saying that. It helped him to become a believer in Yeshua.

We also need to live a balanced life and be faithful. Remember to have joy in all you do. I was going to share on having a balanced life and one of my friends in the jungle some 6,000 miles away just happened to send me a little teaching on this.

First of all, what are some of the things you could do to be balanced and faithful in your walk with God?

- * I try to be faithful to pray every day. I use a prayer list to help me pray for the things I want to pray for.
- * I make a conscious effort to speak in tongues much. Shaul said he spoke in tongues a lot (1 Corinthians 14:18). It is God given thanks, prayer, and it edifies us (1 Corinthians 14:2,4,14-15,17).
- * I make a conscious effort to be kind, respectful, and thoughtful; we are to love one another.
- * I try to be honest and forthright.

This is what my friend sent me about being balanced and faithful:

Have daily quiet times with God.

Observe the Sabbath.

Study the Bible.

Study resources that help you and also help you to help others.

Have fun times.

Have margins in our day (separate your work and down times).

Reflect on our desired outcomes.

Make mid-course adjustments.

What can you think of that could help you? Perhaps just think of one thing you can do and then do it. My friend in the jungle said that for months he has been picturing himself going through a stretch in a river where the water is moving fast and crazy, and at the end, is a beautiful valley. He said that he thinks

Yeshua is telling him that he is going to be all right and that Yeshua is with him. Remember to keep joy in your heart in all you do whether in tough times or good times. Romans 12:12 CJB says, "Rejoice in your hope, be patient in your troubles, and continue steadfastly in prayer."

Laying on of hands was symbolic for God laying on His hands and is used for transference of blessing and healing. God uses things that are symbolic. Some things like laying on of hands are commanded and some rituals only point to God and are not commandments. The Torah procession is a picture of Israel following God in the wilderness and believers in Messiah following the lead of the Holy Spirit.

God does not like people who are disruptive and are complainers, and those who have bad attitudes or speak against God's anointed. In this portion, we see God coming against those types of people. God wants us to hear from him and his prophetic words encourage, comfort, and edify the Bible says. Watch out for people who are fixated on future events so you don't get influenced by them. Instead, trust in God.

Maybe you have some spare time to serve God in some way. God can use that as He wishes and sometimes bring about supernatural events. Stay in fellowship with God; He'll use us. Be balanced and faithful and don't forget to have joy in all you do.