



#41 Pinchas Numbers 25:10 to 30:1
Torah teaching and teaching, Being Zealous for God
By Moshe Schwab

Names

Kefa – Peter
Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ
in the Greek means to be smudged
Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert
Moshe – Moses
Shaul – Paul
Yeshua – Jesus' real name
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets
Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Mishkan – tent of meeting in the desert
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah

Today we will be putting into perspective a few things on how to enter the kingdom of God? Pinchas was a man who stood up for God and protected the people. We also need to be a people who stand strong to protect ourselves and other believers so we will enter God's future kingdom.

You will not find God's kingdom by passing it by. Saying that you will enter God's kingdom at some future time may never happen. If you are not determined to find your way there, you may never get there. You may stay lost and never find your way. Years ago, I was talking to an elderly man who told me that he waisted his life and that how lucky I was to find God at my young age. Fortunately for me, for some 50 years I have maintained a steady determination to find truth and live right.

In order to enter God's kingdom, we must first believe in God and the Messiah Yeshua. That is why Kefa says in Acts 2:38-39 NKJV, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Repent means we are to turn towards God (do teshuvah) by telling God that we are turning toward Him by how we live and by deliberately changing how we live.

It says we are to be immersed in Yeshua the Messiah's name (Yeshua is His real name). In other words, we identify with Yeshua the Messiah. We call on Yeshua's act of redemption through His death and resurrection to forgive us for our past actions that were against God. In ancient times, someone (perhaps a family member) could come along and see you were in debt and pay your debt and redeem you. Yeshua redeemed us and paid the price for our debt because of our sin. Sin required a blood sacrifice. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." Leviticus 17:11 NKJV.

Sometimes we have to talk about difficult things. I have the highest respect for those who give their lives to help others. I should note that many modern rabbis who follow the oral Torah deny that a blood sacrifice is necessary, but what does the Bible say? It says a blood atonement is necessary. It is written in the Dead Sea Scrolls that this sect teaches lies and misleads the people; they are called, "the preacher of deception."¹ This is what the Dead Sea Scrolls said. Who do you want to follow, the Bible or these people who are making up man-made doctrines? Some rabbis even teach that their man-made doctrines in the Talmud (which is a commentary and not the Bible) are greater than the commandments of God's word in the Bible. Are they greater than God? They are mistaken; they can also repent and believe in the Jewish Messiah Yeshua.

The Messiah Yeshua came and gave Himself for our sins as a perfect sacrifice. Kefa talks about this in the book of Acts.

Acts 2:29-33

Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

King David was a prophet. He died and his body decomposed. God told Him that He would raise up a Messiah to be on His throne and the body of the Messiah would not decompose. So, David prophesied about a Messiah dying and being raised from the dead.

Also, God gives us the Holy Spirit as our helper in this age until the future kingdom comes when the Messiah returns. And we who believe and live accordingly in faith, will also be raised from the dead just as the Messiah Yeshua rose from the dead. Yeshua is the mediator, the go-between, of the Messianic agreement (covenant) through what He did so that we could be in His eternal kingdom with Yeshua our Jewish Davidic King. Yeshua was Jewish and still is Jewish. The word Christ is the word for Messiah or Anointed One.

Hebrews 9:11-15

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from

¹ Eitan Bar and Golan Brosh, Rabbinic Judaism Debunked, p. 15.

dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Yeshua died and rose from the dead for the sins all of mankind both in the Old Testament portion and the New portion. Notice it says that we are to be servant of the living and true God. Just as Israel was freed from the Egyptians to serve God, we now believe in God and in our Messiah Yeshua in this Messianic age and are to serve God; believers in the Messiah live in faith by keeping God's commandments and we are also to accept and use the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Then we are to live like we believe. Making the initial commitment is only the beginning of our spiritual walk with God.

*Follow God's commandments — we make no excuses. (Excuses show a lack of faith in God). Ya'akov said, "I will show you my faith by my works;" James 2:18 NKJV.

*Accept the Holy Spirit and the lead of the Holy Spirit. John 14:15-16 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper." The first helper was the Torah.

*Live with faith and trust in God." Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NKJV says, "The LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good." If you trust in God, you will "walk in all His ways." God knows what is best and has good intentions for us.

*If we sin, we confess our sin to God and commit ourselves to do what is right. Isaiah 1:16-18 says, "Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. 'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the LORD, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.'" Talk to God, make a sincere confession of sins to God, and begin doing what is right. God hears you and knows your heart.

Some say there are many ways to God, but the Bible and the Messiah say otherwise.

*For example, watch out for man-made commandments, man-made religions, and philosophies of mere people.

Pirkei Avot 1² (Ethics of Fathers) teaches that it is okay to make up commandments. "Moses received the Torah at Sinai and transmitted it to Joshua, Joshua to the elders, and the elders to the prophets, and the prophets to the Men of the Great Assembly. They said three things: Be patient in [the administration of] justice, raise many disciples and **make a fence round the Torah.**"

God did not say to make endless commandments of men. The Bible says just the opposite. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV, "**You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it,** that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

² WWW.sefaria.org

The rabbis will say that we should watch out what version of the Bible we use, but they say nothing about the commentary from the Talmud that some base their man-made commandments on.

*Especially watch out for those that contradict what the Bible says. Many Christians contradict what the Bible says in many ways.

For example, what does the Bible say about God's Sabbath?

Genesis 2:3 NKJV

"Then **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it**, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

God blessed and sanctified the seventh day. **Sanctified is the word for holy in Hebrew, qadesh. Because of this camouflage**, people do not make the connection that we are to keep the 7th day holy because God made it holy. Instead, people will keep the day of the pagan sun god holy.

Exodus 20:8-9 NKJV

"**Remember the Sabbath day**, to keep it **holy**. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God."

We keep it holy because God made it holy. When we keep Shabbat holy, we demonstrate that we believe in our creator God. What are you saying if you keep Sunday, the day of the pagan sun god?

Sunday Sabbath **was made by Constantine** to the pagan sun god:

"All judges and city people and the craftsmen shall rest upon **the venerable day of the sun**. Country people, however, may freely attend to the cultivation of the fields, because it frequently happens that no other days are better adapted for planting the grain in the furrows or the vines in trenches. So that the advantage given by heavenly providence may not for the occasion of a short time perish." (Codex Justinian 3.12.2 [some list as 3.12.3]; English: Ayers, pp 284-285; Latin: Krueger, p 127)"³

The Sunday Sabbath was passed down to us from Constantine and the Roman Empire; Sunday is a pagan day for the sun god Mithras. Do you want to continue to keep this false doctrine? The Bible says that no idolator will be in the future kingdom. "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, **idolaters**, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone;" Revelation 21:8 NKJV. You will have to stand before God.

Some say it doesn't matter what day we keep and quote Colossians Chapter 2. That section of scripture is about **not keeping man-made commandments** so verse 16 is about not judging others by man-made commandments on God's feasts. The context is clear: "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men;" Colossians 2:8 NKJV. "Which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men." Colossians 2:22

³ <https://sabbathsentinel.org/2016/10/13/constantine-march-321-ad/>

NKJV. These people who say it doesn't matter then change God's word with theology to suit their man-made doctrine.

Learn how to apply the Torah and apply the Torah properly.

Isaiah 1:16-17 NKJV says, "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, **learn to do good.**" We are to learn to do "good."

Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is **right and good** in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you." Doing what is "right" and doing what is "good" is to keep God's commandments. Hebrews 5:14 NKJV says, "But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to **discern both good and evil.**" Learn to discern what is "good."

*Learn how to apply the gift of the Holy Spirit properly.

1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts." We are supposed to use God's spiritual gifts in this Messianic age.

1 Corinthians 14:37 NKJV

"Let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." Shaul wrote about the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12-14 because God told him to and told Shaul that they are "commandments of the Lord."

Kefa said in Acts 2:38-39 that we are to receive the Holy Spirit. That is a commandment.

There is a lot that can be shared on this!

For more on how you can use the Holy Spirit properly, go to our "Prayer Class" at: <https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>

Torah Study

Pinchas is the name "Phinehas" in English. Because Pinchas was zealous for God, God gave Pinchas a covenant of shalom (peace) and his descendants would hold the priestly office forever. The example of Pinchas teaches us to be zealous for God. In the end our zeal will result in eternal life just like Pinchas was given a priestly office forever. We need to poke some holes into false doctrine at times to protect our families and other believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

God expects us to keep His commandments. Those who teach and keep God's commandments will be rewarded by God. It says in Hebrews 6:10-12 NKJV: "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Teaching people to keep God's commandments in Jewish thought is one of the ways we love others. We are to be 'diligent' (also Deuteronomy 6:17-18) to keep God's commands until the end; we are not to

become lazy or get tired of doing what is "right" (Deuteronomy 6:17-18). We are to live like we believe and keep God's commandments so that we inherit God's promises.

Perhaps the spearing of these sinful people in this portion is a picture of the eternal punishment of those who don't keep God's commands. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone." God does not want anyone to fail and neither do we (2 Peter 3:9). God is just; He will reward those who do "good" and because He is just, He must also then punish those who do wrong.

One of the people who Pinchas speared was a leader from the tribe of Shim'on (Simon). The other was a daughter of one of the leaders of the Midyan (Midianite) clans. They were a mixed group the Bible says. God told Moshe to attack Midyan because they had tricked them into idolatry and treated Israel as enemies.

Then God tells Moshe to take a census of those 20 and over for military service and there were 601,730 men. God said the promised land was to be given by the numbers counted. Those with more people would be given more land and the land was to be decided by lot. There were 23,000 male Levites one month or older. They would not get a land inheritance. All those that who originally entered the desert died there except for Joshua and Caleb, the two spies that had made a positive report.

Some daughters had no brothers, and they were to get their father's inheritance. There is a change in the original ruling which suggests that it is okay to seek God's direction on how to follow His commandments. Commandments could be updated to make appropriate rulings. We should be reminded that **only appropriate laws should be applied**. Instead, some think this is a license to add their own ideas to God's commandments which is wrong. I won't even empty my waste basket on Shabbat, but that is how I follow the commandment to rest on Shabbat. Rest most likely refers to common chores and our regular work. Talk to God about it.

For example, Shaul uses the Torah to say leaders should be supported if they need it. He quotes this from the Old Testament. "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain;" Deuteronomy 25:4 NKJV. Shaul said, "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer is worthy of his wages;'" 1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV. We should understand that the commandments in the New Testament portion are applications from the Old Testament portion.

Some rules for inheritance are then given in this portion. God instructs Moshe to climb a mountain in the 'Avarim range (Mt. Nebo, Deuteronomy 34:1) where he will die and also where he will be able to see the land given to Israel. He will not be able to enter the land because of his disobedience when he spoke to the people and then struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock.

God instructs Moshe to delegate authority to Y'hoshua (Joshua) and the community laid hands on Y'hoshua and commissions him. God would speak to Israel through the Urim. The Urim were

the stones on the priestly garment. Each stone represented a tribe of Israel. The stones would supernaturally light up to give Israel an answer from the letters derived from the different names of the tribes. Of course, there were also prophets in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament portion.

The priests were to make offerings at the proper days and times and with the prescribed animals and other types of offerings. They were to use lambs in the first year without defect. They made a fragrant fire with flour. Offerings were made every day, on Shabbat, the first of the month, and on all of the feasts. What the priests were to do for the feasts is described. The portion ends with it saying that Moshe told the people what God commanded.

The Haftarah is 1 Kings 18:46-19:1. Eliyahu (Elijah) had just put the false prophets of Ba-al to death and Izevel (Jezebel) then threatens Eliyahu. Eliyahu was despondent, but an angel came and gave him food and the food kept him for forty days and nights until he got to Mt. Horev, the mount of God. God asks him why he is there.

He says that Israel has abandoned the covenant and that he is being pursued. Eliyahu stood at the entrance of the cave and waited for God's leading. We now know where the cave is and can go online and see videos of the real Mt. Sinai and see the cave. Eliyahu eventually hears a quiet voice and covers himself, and God speaks to him. Eliyahu explains what he is doing, and God tells him to anoint Haza'el to be king of Aram. Also, he is to anoint Yehu the son of Nimshi to be king over Israel and anoint Elisha the son of Shafat of Avel-M'cholah to be prophet after him.

Pinchas is also another messianic type for his zeal and desire to protect God's people. God gave Pinchas a covenant of shalom and the Messiah Yeshua also gives us peace. Pinchas' descendants would be priests forever because of Pinchas' zeal and this is also a picture of Yeshua's zeal; He is also our High Priest forever.⁴ Pinchas made atonement for Israel by his act of killing the idolaters and Yeshua made atonement for us, giving His life for us. Yeshua did not deserve to be executed (Luke 23:13-15), but He gave Himself up for us (John 10:18) so that we could be reconciled (brought back) to God.

There is a broken (separated) vav in Numbers 25:12 and it is in the word "shalom" which means peace. It is the word used when God gave Pinchas a covenant of peace. The result of the broken vav looks like a yud and an object shaped like a vav without the top of the letter. The yud represents that which is heavenly and vav means hook or nail. Perhaps we could infer from the word "shalom" in Numbers 24:12 that which was heavenly was nailed to a stake for us so that we can have peace with God. So, the broken vav in this verse in Numbers could refer prophetically to what Yeshua did for us when He died for us.

Also, the word shalom with a yud in it instead of a vav is the word Shalim which means complete. We have received peace from our Messiah Yeshua, and we are complete in Him. Yeshua said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid;" John 14:27 NKJV. We are

⁴ The order of the real high priests (not the false Roman appointed leaders) of Israel was Zacharias (who was voted in as High Priest, Luke 1:5-8), Yochanan the Immerser (named by the angel Gabriel, the son of Zacharias), Yeshua Messiah (anointed and immersed by Yochanan the Immerser. These were all executed by the Romans to maintain their dominance.

complete through Yeshua, "You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power;" Colossians 2:10 NKJV. Remember, some of these insights were intended by God, but we are to actually keep God's words and not just look for insights. Both Yeshua and Shaul (Paul) said that always looking for insights was wrong (John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:3-4).

Being Zealous for God (a teaching to accompany the Torah portion)

Removing earthly things from our lives.

Pinchas gave his all to do what was right. We too should do all we can to do what is right. Part of that is to remove the love of earthly things from our lives. Yochanan said, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world —the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever;" 1 John 2:15-17 NKJV.

As believers in the Messiah Yeshua, we are to have a different point of view about life. Some people highly value the things of this world, and they are in love with this world. I have been around people who talk about all they have and the next big money-making project they have. That is their life. Spiritual things have very little value to them. Sometimes in their pride they view anyone who has meager means or as spiritually minded as second rate, but that is not true for those who love God. Anyone who loves God is never second rate. Yochanan said in 1 John 3:1 NKJV, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God." Sons of God in the Bible are those who keep God's commandments and act like they are part of the family. Noah was a son of God who saved the world because he did what was right.

Some people who have money and things want it all for themselves and some will even say proudly, "Look at all that I have." Instead of being generous towards God and the poor, they think the poor should do it all on their own.

There are people who use their resources well though. Do not get me wrong. Not all of us are able to give vast sums away, but there are people who are very generous. One person I know of gives 80% of what he makes to God and still has lots of money left over. After all, how much money, how many cars, how huge of a house, and how many airplanes do we need. I am not saying we have to give like he did. That is something he decided to do. He put his money where his mouth is. I like to think that I respect God too and that I am generous for His purposes. With that in mind, I contribute to organizations that give God the glory and help others spiritually.

It is not a bad idea to pare our lives down and remove some of the earthly things from our lives.

Sometimes the more we have, the more distractions we have in life. Giving is one way to show that you are zealous for God. Perhaps we should be saying to ourselves, put your resources where your heart is. Do you have a heart for God, for the poor, to stand faithful, and to live

your life for the Lord? Shaul (Paul) said in Titus 2:12, "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age." God expects us to have a balanced life and put God in His proper place in our lives.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 NKJV:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

It says love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. That is a tall task. Yet it is a commandment of God. The word strength in the Hebrew can also mean resources.

When our life is consumed with work, multiple hobbies, having fun all the time etcetera, it can take up a considerable part of our day. Working for the Lord becomes more of a chore when we add earthly traps to our walk. Some people have the attitude that they give enough to God. That may be true, but some of the people I knew that lived like that only took 1 hour for God out of the 168 hours they have in a week. I met someone once that told me they did not have time for God because they were too busy watching TV. What a waste of life.

I know someone who graduated from Harvard, and they don't have a TV. They did not get to where they were in life by watching TV. I am not saying we shouldn't watch TV. Perhaps you could use an hour of your time during the week to do something for God instead of playing video games or watching TV. Is that too much to do?

Adding too much to our lives can consume our time and keeps us from doing what God wants us to do.

What if God wanted you to lead someone to Him, but you were too busy watching TV. What we do matters. Someone I met for only a few minutes once thanked me years later for my encouragement and had become a believer as a result of my encouragement.

Why not do something. You might enjoy it so much that you will add more time for God to your agenda. I used to take time to fellowship with believers a couple times a week, feed the poor every month, and if more time opened up, I'd find something else I could do. Why not invest in eternal things. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal;" 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NKJV.

It is worth insulating yourself to a certain extent from worldly things that can take over our lives.

Instead of being too busy for God, turn the tables a little and get busy for God some. I make sure I take time for prayer every day. If it means giving up TV in the evening, that is what I do. I know some of us are incredibly busy. Instead of trying to take too much on for yourself, have at least a 15-minute Bible study every night with your family. Our kids need encouragement in this ultra-secular world. Limit your TV, limit your video games and Facebook, and take time

every day to do something spiritual. See if you can get that 1 hour of spiritual activity up to 2 hours per week and see if you don't enjoy your life more. Some of us are so wrapped up in worldly things that we are actually stressed out just from those things. Some of us are doing great; keep up the good work!

What are some ways that you can insulate yourself from worldly things?

Taking time every day to pray and study the scriptures.

Taking time every day to pray and study the Bible with your family.

Tell yourself every day that God is the most important part of your life.

Tell yourself that earthly things are going to pass away and find something that has some eternal verity to life.

Take time to do something spiritual during the week.

Pinchas was zealous for God. God blessed his descendants for what he did. Wouldn't we want to receive blessings from God, how about eternal blessings? Eliyahu (Elijah) thought all was lost and went to the mountain of God. When God spoke to Eliyahu, God put him to work. It was not over after all. Pinchas put himself into doing what was right and seeking the things of God.

As believers in the true God, we are to have a different viewpoint about life. Do not let your life be totally wrapped up in projects, hobbies, making money, and worldly things. Sometimes, the more we have the more distractions we have in life. Some of us just make up distractions instead of doing the important spiritual things of life. Give, share your time, think of little ways you can make a difference, and watch out for all the worldly desires that come our way.

Keeping ourselves busy with worldly things can keep us from engaging with God and the eternal verities of life. Work at spending more time doing spiritual things. Why not make a commitment to do something, even if it is just 15 minutes more or 1 hour more a week? Set the time aside. Surely, we can do that. There is a lot we can do, do not get stressed out on worldly things; instead work at freeing up time for God.