



#14 Va'era Exodus 6:2-9:35

Torah Teaching By Moshe Schwab

Names

Avraham – Abraham

Kefa – Peter

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one;
Christ in the Greek means to be smudged

Moshe – Moses

Pesach – Passover

Shaul – Paul

Ya'akov – Jacob

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

Yěhōváh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)

Y'hudah – Judah

Yitzchak – Isaac

Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah

Va'era – the 14th Torah portion

The portion for today is Va'era and means, "and I appeared." This portion begins with God telling Moshe (Moses) **that He, Yěhōváh, appeared** to Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya'akov as El Shaddai. The Ancient Rabbis said that El Shaddai meant, "Mighty God." It is likely that they knew God's real name as Yě-hō-váh as well because God says that it will be God's name forever and then it is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. The markings I use for Yě-hō-váh are the IPA symbols used to pronounce words. I do this to try to help you say God's name right.

In Exodus 3:15 the word translated LORD in all capital letters is Yě-hō-váh. The word God is the Hebrew word that is translated God. So, it reads, "Yě-hō-váh God of your fathers." Exodus 3:15 NKJV says, "The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations." Yě-hō-váh is God's name forever.

It is important to understand that we need repetition in life. We do not automatically retain everything we learn and often forget how to do certain things if they are not repeated. For example, when I went back to college after a couple of years, I had to work extra hard in math to get my skill level back to what it was. I was then able to surpass my previous level of skill, but it was not easy at first.

This repetition also includes going over biblical concepts that we encounter frequently, and concepts concerning how we got our Bibles and how these effect our understanding of the Bible. Repetition is implied in the commandment to teach what the Bible says "**diligently**" and in all we do in life. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NKJV says, "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." So, we should listen patiently and take to heart what the scriptures teach us even if we have heard them before. We need to do this so we do not forget who we are according to Yeshua's brother Ya'akov (also known as James). He says we are to both hear and obey. James

1:23-24 NKJV says, "If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was." Shaul believed it was important to remind us to keep God's commandments. Galatians 5:21 NKJV says, "Just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." So, Shaul taught them over and over that those who do not keep God's commandments will not be in God's future kingdom. We must be reminded of that fact.

I would like to start out by talking about some of the basic things that we talk about from time to time. Some people say that Jesus is the real name for the Messiah but we know that He was not English. He was Jewish. What is Jesus' real name and how do you say Jesus' real name? Jesus' real name is Yeshua and it means salvation. It is pronounced as "*Yesh-shoe-ah*." We know that is His real name because of the way it is used in the Hebrew Matthew. Matthew 1:21 in the Hebrew Shem Tov manuscript says, "*Yeshua ki hu Yoshia*." There is an obvious Hebrew word pun in His naming which tells us that Yeshua is His legitimate name. Yeshua means "salvation" and *Yoshia* means "he will save." So, in English the Hebrew reads, "You shall call his name Yeshua (salvation) for he will save my people from their sins." You do not see the word pun in either English or Greek (namely, Yeshua → Yoshia). Yeshua was a common Jewish name at the time Yeshua lived. Yeshua is a form of the Hebrew name *Yehoshua* and is the Hebrew name for the English name Joshua.

Hebrew word puns are throughout the Hebrew scriptures. There are other names in the Bible that have Hebrew word puns associated with them. For example, the Bible says that Adam was formed from "the dust of the ground" (see Genesis 2:7). The name Adam and the Hebrew word for ground form a Hebrew word pun. The word for ground in Hebrew is the word *adamah*. So, Adam came from the *adamah* (Adam → adamah).

Also, this is a good time to talk about Yeshua's ancestry since we are talking about Yeshua's name. Almost all Bibles have two genealogies for Joseph, but none for Yeshua's mother, Miryam. Most informed Bible students and scholars believe that a different Joseph was the father of Miryam in Matthew 1:16 and not the husband, and that Matthew is giving Miryam's genealogy which would prove that Yeshua was in the line of David. Not having a genealogy for Miryam is a problem because the Bible says the Messiah will come from the line of David. We cannot prove that Yeshua is in the line of David unless we have Miryam's genealogy. There is one name short of 14 in the genealogy list in Matthew if we leave Joseph as Miryam's husband as some manuscripts say (Matthew says there should be 14 generations not just 13.).

With Miryam also having a father by the name of Joseph the generations add up to 14. The many changes in the Greek text were due to heretics adding to and changing the Greek manuscripts at will in many places to produce an anti-Jewish slant because they were anti-Jewish. Pagans considered the Jews to be unbelievers in the pagan gods. They also did not like God's commandments, and it seems they modified some of the scriptures to say we do not have to keep God's commandments. There are a lot of clear scriptures that say we are to keep God's Old Testament commandments. Do not be deceived.

They sometimes changed any of the scriptures they wanted to. In the compilation of manuscripts known as the Greek text, there are sometimes 10 deviations between the

manuscripts in just a single verse. There are 8,000 New Testament portion scriptures so if we take a low average like 2, we get 16,000 deviations between the manuscripts. That is a lot. The translators have done a good job figuring out how the Bible should read but it is impossible to get everything right because we have no originals.

This becomes a problem because the Greek text has anti-Jewish elements and anti-law elements. Some in modern Christianity have made up a whole anti-law theology. We have talked about this many times. All the writers of the New Testament scriptures share that the law is not done away with in some way or another.

Most startling is Yeshua's rejection of those who do not keep the law in Matthew 7:23. Yochanan's asserts that those who do not keep the law are living in sin and sin is of the devil in 1 John 3:4 and 3:8. Shaul says that the law has "certainly not" been done away with in Romans 3:31. Ya'akov says that faith requires that we keep the law and that the devils also believe in God. But of course, the devils do not follow God's laws. The devil is going to the lake of fire and brimstone along with those who also do not follow God's law (see Revelation 21:8).

Yeshua says in Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV,

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 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!'

The religion of the Roman empire put together their own Greek manuscripts in order to claim to be the authentic religion of the Jewish Messiah Yeshua and then made all things in their religion anti-Jewish. Yeshua (Jesus) was Jewish and so were all the early believers. There is no reason to believe that a Roman religion could be a true church. It is Jewish believers who told us about their Jewish Messiah to the world. Before the Jews, Gentiles like Noah and Abraham passed on God's law verbally.

The original accepted Bible included the Hebrew gospels and was put together around 150 AD and called the Itala text. Of course, in order to take over and replace true Christianity, the Roman Empire had to come up with its own heretical Greek text and divest itself from the original believers. They even killed the true believers and burned their Bibles which were true copies of the original texts. The good news is that we still have some copies of the Hebrew manuscripts! We have no originals, just copies. It is the same for the Greek text. We have no originals, only copies.

There are many attestations to Matthew being written in Hebrew in the ancient writings and we have found copies of all the gospels and a number of the epistles of the New Testament portion written in Hebrew. "In Papias's writings, known as Expositions of the Oracles of the Lord, it is stated by Eusebius of Caesarea, that he wrote: 'So then Matthew wrote the oracles in the Hebrew language, and every one interpreted them as he was able' (in Eusebius, Church History, 3.39.16). Papias lived within 50 years after the death and resurrection of Christ."¹ Matthew was originally written in Hebrew and so were many of original books of the New Testament. Early

¹ <https://truthchallenge.one/blog/2016/05/08/was-the-gospel-of-matthew-written-in-hebrew/>

leaders quoted the Hebrew originals and their quotes often match the copies of the Hebrew New Testament scriptures that we have. That is one of the ways that we know that we have copies of the Hebrew originals. Jerome quoted the Hebrew gospel of Matthew a number of times.

The word "*avi*" is used in some Hebrew manuscripts of Matthew in the scriptures that name Yeshua. The Hebrew word "*avi*" means "the father of." The word "*ish*" is also used in some Hebrew manuscripts of Matthew for the naming of Yeshua and means husband. The Greek translation shows Joseph being the husband of Mary. Matthew 1:16 NKJV says, "And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ." In some Hebrew Shem Tov manuscripts we can clearly see: "**Yosef avi Miryam.**" Namely, **Joseph is the father of Miryam and not Joseph the husband of Miryam.** This mistake probably occurred because Miryam's father's name was Joseph and Miryam married another man by the name of Joseph. They were two different people.

We know, Matthew was originally written in Hebrew and that would account for the mistake in the Greek manuscripts. Translators then translated the mistake into all the versions of the Bible (KJV, NKJV, NIV, ...). Also, since some Hebrew manuscripts were back corrected in some places, this would account for some Hebrew manuscripts having "*ish*" (husband) instead of "*avi*." In other words, they changed the Hebrew text after looking at the Greek manuscripts which had the mistake.

See the Hebrew manuscript below showing Joseph the husband of Mary – of whom was born Yeshua. It is written in cursive Hebrew. So, the originals of Matthew had the genealogy of Mary and not Joseph. The copy of the manuscript was provided by Michael Rood.

The manuscript with the Hebrew word "*avi*" written in Hebrew cursive makes more sense. With Joseph being the father of Miryam, we now have 14 generations for the last set of 14 ancestors instead of 13. Where Yeshua is, put in Miryam as number 13 and Yeshua is then number 14. Then the genealogy adds up correctly to 14. Again, Matthew 1:17 NKJV says, "So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations." The Bible tells us how many generations are named.

The heretics who changed the Greek manuscripts had no qualms in changing anything. For example, all the writers of the scriptures were Jewish so they never had to identify someone as being Jewish. Inserting the word Jew makes people think that the writers of the scriptures were not Jewish. In the first chapter of John it says that Yeshua came to his own, but he did not accept Him, meaning the Jews. The Hebrew Matthew says that the world did not accept Yeshua. These heretics wanted to discredit the early believers who were mostly Jewish. So, scriptures were tampered with to make the Jews look bad and God's good Old Testament commandments to be done away with. Anyone who does not teach the people to keep God's Old Testament commandments is a false teacher or prophet (see Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

Let's talk about a few more examples. From the Preface to the Latin Vulgate by Jerome. Jerome said: "There are almost **as many forms of texts as there are copies**. If, on the other hand,

we are to glean the truth from a comparison of many, why not go back to the original Greek and **correct the mistakes** introduced by **inaccurate translators**, and the **blundering alterations** of confident but **ignorant critics**, and, further, **all that has been inserted or changed** by copyists more asleep than awake?" Unfortunately, all we have are copies that have been tampered with. Accept the scriptures that do not contradict keeping the law; there are many. Do not allow the scriptures that have obviously been tampered with to influence you.

Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-27 are a rendering of the same parable. They are about the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 25:14 NKJV says. "The kingdom of heaven is like..." So, they should have a similar message, but the parable in Luke tells people to break the 6th commandment and commit murder. Anyone who teaches people to break any of God's commandments is a false teacher or false prophet (see Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

The unprofitable servant in Matthew is thrown out into the darkness. In this case it means to be thrown out of, "The kingdom of heaven." Matthew 25:30 NKJV says, "And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness." Luke 19:27 NKJV says, "But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me." This was obviously changed to teach that it was okay to kill unbelievers and most likely it was addressed towards Jews who did not believe in the Messiah Yeshua. I have a copy of a commentary that says that it is about killing the Jews! The Greeks did not like the Jews because they did not believe in their pagan gods and they did not want to keep God's good commandments, so they changed the scriptures to make it sound like we do not have to keep the law and showed Jews in a negative light.

Heretics continue to want to substantiate their claim as a true church even to this day by claiming that the original Hebrew writings came from their heretical Greek manuscripts or that the Greek has no deviations. They will say, "How dare you say there is anything wrong with the Greek manuscripts." The Greek text was never an accepted text of the true believers. Later on, the Lucian text became the true biblical text. His work was destroyed by the pagan Roman empire because it did not agree with their heretical text. Of course, these heretics want to continue their claim to their false authority and keep us in the dark about its heretical insertions.

Yeshua's genealogy is really important because it proves that Yeshua was from the line of David and therefore makes Him legitimately a candidate to be the Messiah because the Messiah had to be born in the kingly line of David!

I should let you know that there are people who think the Greek manuscripts are perfect and are very antagonistic towards the truths we are sharing. They do not like the truth because they want to keep following their false religion no matter what we say. So, stay strong. Remember, anyone who says the Old Testament commandments are done away with is a false teacher or prophet and we are commanded to not listen to them. Do not listen to these false teachers, they are the false teachers.

Deuteronomy 13:3-4 NKJV says,

You shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. **You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments** and obey His voice; you

shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

Below, it shows the ancestry of Yeshua from Matthew with one name short based on the Greek manuscripts. When Miryam is number 13 according to the Hebrew manuscripts, Yeshua then becomes number 14, and it matches what Matthew 1:14 says about the list of generations.

Genealogy without Miryam is short a generation:

1 Abraham	1 Solomon	1 Shealtiel
2 Isaac	2 Rehoboam	2 Zerubbabel
3 Jacob	3 Abijah	3 Abiud
4 Judah and Tamar	4 Asa	4 Eliakim
5 Perez	5 Jehoshaphat	5 Azor
6 Hezron	6 Jehoram	6 Zadok
7 Ram	7 Uzziah	7 Achim
8 Amminadab	8 Jotham	8 Eliud
9 Nahshon	9 Ahaz	9 Eleazar
10 Salmon and Rachab	10 Hezekiah	10 Matthan
11 Boaz and Ruth	11 Manasseh	11 Jacob
12 Obed	12 Amon	12 Joseph
13 Jesse	13 Josiah	13 Yeshua (Jesus)
14 David and Bathsheba	14 Jeconiah	

We are to follow God and the Messiah even if it can be a little uncomfortable.

I did not understand when I was a young believer in the Messiah that I was learning a theology, a man-made doctrine and belief system. Why do you think there are so many denominations? It is because they are not grounded in the doctrine of God's law. Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law."

It can be difficult to accept that we followed for the most part, doctrine that has been passed down to us from the pagan Roman Empire. Protestants say they are not Catholic but according to the Catholic Church, they are still Catholic because they keep the pagan sabbath. This was according to the Council of Constantinople in 360 AD.

The Roman Emperor Constantine was pagan, and he established the day of rest to the pagan sun god Mithras on Sunday. He worshipped the sun god Mithras probably along with all the pagan gods. He probably considered Yeshua to be just another pagan god. Sunday is the day of the pagan sun god.

From: <https://sabbathfacts.org/constantine-sunday-law-321/>

"The law stated that on 'the venerable **day of the sun**' all judges, city people, and craftsmen were to rest from their work. This meant that Christians who had previously observed the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) as a holy day now had to switch to Sunday."

The protestants are still keeping forms of the pagan religion that was passed down to them. Pagan Christianity also worships idols. No idol worshipper will be allowed in the kingdom of heaven (see Galatians 5:19-21). They changed God's commandments so they could worship idols. One of the 10 Commandments is very specific about not worshipping idols.

The Bible says in Exodus 20:4-6 NKJV,
 You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Here are the Catholic 10 Commandments:

I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
 You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain.
 Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
 Honor your father and your mother.
 You shall not kill.
 You shall not commit adultery.
 You shall not steal.
 You shall not bear false witness.
 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
 You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
 (From Learn Religions Online)

What happened to the commandment to not worship idols? Shaul said that idol worshippers will not be in God's future kingdom. They will say that through these idols we are really praying to God, but praying to these idols is idolatry. They believe a lie. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, **nor idolaters**, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." According to the Bible, they are worshipping idols.

So, when I am keeping God's feasts, these idolators say I am keeping Jewish feasts. Leviticus 23:2 NKJV says, "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, **these are My feasts.**" When I keep the laws that Yeshua, Yochanan, Ya'akov, and Shaul say I must keep, they call me a Judaizer or say in a negative tone that I am under the law.

God's laws are God's laws!

Psalms 119:1-7 NKJV says,
Blessed are the undefiled in the way, **Who walk in the law of the LORD!**
 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!
 They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways. You have commanded us to keep
 Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes!
 Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your commandments. I will
 praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments.

What does the psalmist say?

He keeps God's law with all His heart instead of following his own heart and ideas.

Walking in God's ways is to keep God's commandments (see Deuteronomy 5:33).

He is diligent to keep God's law, so he is not ashamed.

He has a right heart because he has God's commandments on his heart.

God's commandments are righteous precepts, they are the right way to live (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18).

So, be strong. You are on the right track if you are keeping God's commandments. Those who say they believe in God and the Bible will use their man-made philosophy on you and explain away everything you believe including God's feasts and God's commandments because they have been indoctrinated into an unbiblical system. Of course, this makes it difficult to get through to them and to those who have been indoctrinated into man-made doctrine. These so-called believers will even reject you and dislike you because you accept what God says over the man-made philosophy they have been taught. Yeshua said in Luke 21:17 NKJV, "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake." Those who believe in their man-made religion lack humility and lack a desire to follow truth.

My own story. (I thought that God wanted me to tell share some of my story with you all.) I have been a Bible teacher for over 50 years and have written hundreds of articles and teachings on understanding the Bible, applying the scriptures, and prayer. I have extensively studied the Bible from the Greek as well as with a Hebraic understanding and have had the opportunity to teach classes and seminars in the United States, Germany, and Brazil. I have dedicated my life to helping people understand and apply the scriptures to their daily lives.

I have been known as Moshe Schwab and also as Michael Schwab. I grew up in a home that wanted to pass on good values. My father taught our family about God's feasts according to my older brother, (also known as Jewish feasts by some). By the time I came along he had stopped doing that. My mother was obviously partial to her Jewish ancestry. She taught me from the Torah as I was growing up. We avoided talking about our Jewish connections perhaps because of the Jewish holocaust or perhaps we wanted to fit into the society at that time. Anytime my mother talked about the holocaust I could see the terror in her eyes.

My brother was working in San Francisco and that is where my brother believed in the Jewish Messiah through the ministry of Jews for Jesus. He invited me to church when he returned home. I had previously believed that Yeshua was the Messiah, but my brother's invitation began a different journey of faith for me. I met my wife at the congregation I attended. I have worked in several fields related to my degree in Electronic Engineering and served as a Bible teacher and in various capacities in ministry at the churches I attended.

Among those were leading meetings and teaching at other churches both in the United States and abroad. I have 2 Bible degrees and have worked some toward my doctorate in Religious Studies. My wife also has a degree in Biblical Studies and is a veterinarian. After obtaining my Master's Degree in Ministry, I asked God what I should do, and God told me to go get a job where they treat God as a business. I immediately told God that is not how I wanted to use my life. So, I began serving and using my life for God and looking for opportunities to serve God in various ways.

Also, after I got my degree in ministry, I had a vision from God. In this vision, I stepped onto a gold platform and Yeshua laid a tallit (a Jewish prayer shawl) on me. I did not understand the vision at that time. After doing some extensive Messianic Jewish study and learning Hebrew, I thought God wanted me to begin writing about the things I was learning to help others understand the Bible in its original context. That is the way we should all understand the Bible, the way the people of Yeshua's (Jesus') time would have understood it. We seek authentic beliefs. After the Gentiles Noah and Abraham passed on the true faith to the Jews, the Jews were commissioned to write down the scriptures. The Gentiles passed on God's commandments verbally before they were written down.

The early believers who wrote down the Bible given to them by God were all Jewish. They are not just Jewish scriptures, but God's scriptures. 2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV says, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Kefa is actually talking about the Old Testament scriptures and commandments because there was not New Testament portion at the time!

After I began writing about our Messianic beliefs, the leader of the jungle churches in the Amazon Jungle told me that he saw me as Moses. Some people believe that God is silent like the pagan gods. The Bible says that is not true. 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

The leader of the jungle churches saying that to me was somewhat startling because this person is a very anointed person who lived his life hearing from God and following God. He is a person who is strongly led by the Holy Spirit. Then, a prophetess in the United States told me the same thing shortly after this; she had no idea what the other person had said to me. I had always thought that changing names to a Hebrew name was a little superficial, it is after these words of prophecy though that I began to use Moshe as my pen name, namely, the name I use in my writing.

I asked God if He had renamed me, and God told me my name was: "Connected to and living in Yě-hō-váh." That is something that I pray into my life daily, but Moshe was an easier name to use as a pen name for my writing. Since Moshe was given to me by prophecy, I also pray every day that I can be like Moshe. I think of these names as being something to aspire to and not in any way that I have arrived. Perhaps you may also aspire to some great believer from the past. My friends often call me Mike or Moshe.

We continue to lead a congregation and teach the Bible in a more authentic way, the way it was meant to be applied and understood. The written Bible came from an Israelite and Jewish people who followed the true God just like the great Gentiles of the past like Abraham and Noah followed the true God. Genesis 6:9 NKJV says, Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." To walk with God is to keep His commandments (see Deuteronomy 5:33). Genesis 26:5 NKJV says, "**Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.**" We too want to follow the true God just as the believing Gentiles and Israelite and Jewish believers of the past did and like the psalmist did.

Psalms 119:44-48 NKJV says,
 So shall I keep Your law continually, forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty
 (proud of God's commandments), for I seek Your precepts. I will speak of Your
 testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in
 Your commandments, which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your
 commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes.

Strong's Dictionary says that the word in this verse, "liberty," can be translated as proud. He was proud of God's good precepts.

I continue to try to help people understand the truths of the Jewish Bible (The whole original written Bible both old and new came through an Israelite and Jewish culture from God.), and I continue to help people believe on the Messiah Yeshua and to live how the early believers in Yeshua would have. I asked God what He wanted me to do, and God said that He wanted me:

*To give people direction in their spiritual walk with God;
 to bring the shalom (the all encompassing and restoring peace) of God
 to those who seek restoration with God; to help people
 to turn back to the mighty God of all creation
 who is actively at work in those who want teshuvah (change)
 through Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the anointed one);
 so that those who love and trust in God
 can enjoy a life of devotion to God and be to God's praise,
 giving Him glory and demonstrating God's goodness.*

God designated that a Messiah would come to mankind and subsequently from the Jewish believers and lead the people of the world to God. We join all believers from all of time in that quest.

God is at work in this world to help mankind; will we cooperate with God.

God preserves all that is in the present. Nehemiah 9:6 NKJV says, "You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all." So, God did not leave us to figure out things on our own. He gave us commandments that give us wisdom and understanding for life. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore **be careful to observe them**; for this 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.'"

Since God is the creator, He knows what is best for us and knows best how we should live. Those who do what they want to do instead of keeping God's commandments therefore reject the creator and His good intentions for us. Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV says, 'Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever.' God wants everyone to follow His good commandments; they were good in ancient times and they are still good. Psalms 100:5 NKJV says, "For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

God has also given us the gift of the Holy Spirit through the Messiah Yeshua. God gave spiritual gifts to the believers of Israel and God has given us gifts through the Messiah Yeshua. He has not forsaken us to live life on our own. Psalms 68:19 NKJV says, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily

loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation!" Shaul says we should desire the spiritual gifts through the Messiah Yeshua. 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts." God gave us these spiritual gifts so that we would not be tricked by made up doctrine. Ephesians 4:14 NKJV says, "That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting." We talked about some of this false teaching already today. Stay strong in the good doctrine that gives us the wisdom and understanding we need for life. Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: do not forsake my law." Do not forsake God's good law.

We want truth. We do not want to sugar coat the message or make it into a pretend there is a God message.

Would our good God give us a message to play make-believe in life? Exodus 34:6 NKJV says, "And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.'" God did not give us a message to just lure us into self-assumption, or swelled heads, or misplaced confidence. God revealed that He is God and we are not. God revealed His good intentions for us. Psalms 34:8 NKJV says, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Give God the respect He deserves and keep His good commandments that give us understanding for life. Psalms 111:10 NKJV says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever." God is worthy of praise forever because He has given us good rule, good commandments to live by. Then those who follow our good God will live forever in His future kingdom. Psalms 37:27 NKJV says, "Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore." God's saints who keep His commandments will live forever. Psalms 37:28 NKJV says, "For the LORD loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off." Also, Daniel 7:18 NKJV says, "But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever."

Hold onto all the word of God, it is not a superficial way of life. It requires effort to learn and put into practice.

Numbers 23:19 NIV says, "God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind." So, God has not changed His good laws. God does not need to try to fool us. It said in Psalms that we can experience God's goodness. Psalms 34:8 NKJV says, "Oh, **taste and see that the LORD is good.**" God's commandments and the Holy Spirit were good and are still good.

Diligently keep God's good commandments. This is an important scripture. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "**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." Keep learning and put into practice God's good commandments. Deuteronomy 8:11 NKJV says, "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes."

Prayerfully consider all we do so that we follow God the way we should.

If I am tempted, I make sure to commit my ways to living how God says I should live. I take time to pray about it and I commit myself to God. Psalms 77:6 NKJV says, "I call to

remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes diligent search."

Psalms 103:11-17 NKJV says,

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. as a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.

God imputes righteousness to those who treat Him as God and respect Him for who He is, and live like they are His children.

We are to hear and obey God's commandments. Psalms 78:1 NKJV says, "Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth." His commandments give us wisdom and understanding for life. Psalms 111:10 NKJV says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever." God is worthy of our praise and is worthy to be followed. Be zealous for God's commandments. Jude 1:3 NKJV says, "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." What was delivered to the saints? Psalms 112:1 NKJV says, "Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments."

Here is some more to Consider.

Have joy and fun in life as a believer in Yě-hō-váh , the Messiah Yeshua, and the Holy Spirit. First, I have to qualify that statement, so we do not get off track. It is important to apply yourself spiritually. Not everyone has the same focus toward their spiritual life, so some people need to raise up their level of spirituality in order to get where they need to be. For example, when a person first joins a sports team, their first focus is on being part of the team. They then work at succeeding as a member of the team and finally they try becoming a key person who contributes to the team.

A lot of people never develop any spiritual aspirations and have a low commitment to God. We want to be like the psalmist who we just read about that has a high level of commitment. He understood what God's commandments can mean in life. Psalms 119:47 NKJV says, "I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love." When we start to apply what God tells us we then begin to understand the goodness of God. Psalms 119:32 says, "I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart."

Just like those who compete in sports are committed to work at their sport on a consistent basis, we need to be committed to develop ourselves spiritually on a consistent basis. Here are some things we need to do in our spiritual walk:

We need to view our godly behaviors in life as integral to a proper lifestyle.

We need to reinforce those godly behaviors by attention and affirmation to the lifestyle

God wants for us.
Just like we must plan life's necessary activities, we need to plan how we will accomplish things spiritually in life.

Psalms 119:66-69 NKJV says, "Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes. The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart." Notice that changing our life is not always without some tension or opposition. We need to be committed to change and committed to God. We all are committed to something. Why not be committed to God. I heard one person say years ago, 'We are all fools for something, why not be fools for the Messiah Yeshua.' Do not allow others to stop you from engaging in your spiritual journey. The Psalmist learned from keeping God's commandments that they are lifesaving and good for us, and they lead to a more satisfying life.

Joy, satisfaction, and happiness in life begins by following God and keeping His commandments. Without that, we are living like the atheists or unbelievers to just please ourselves, and we do not understand the basics we need to have for true joy and satisfaction in life.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NKJV says,
Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

King Solomon saw that all the works of mankind can be tedious and do not last. We have to enjoy life in the moment and make our spiritual walk a priority. Ecclesiastes 2:24 NKJV says, "Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God."

We need other activities in life other than work. Our work can often be an enjoyable activity even if it is a routine task, but we will not talk about that today. Let's talk about some other enjoyable activities. What enjoyable activities give us satisfaction in life and are fun?

Here are some activities that God has given us to enjoy:

- Singing.
- Enjoying nature.
- Enjoying God's presence.
- Taking time to be thankful.
- Listening to music or playing music.
- Taking a nap.
- Resting.
- Clearing our mind.
- Non-stressful conversation.

When I talk about activities at congregation, we usually end up talking about the Sabbath as well. So, I will include some thoughts on that in this section.

All activities are not okay to do on the Sabbath. Consider if what you are doing for fun is work. For example, it says in Isaiah that not all conversation is proper on the Sabbath.

Isaiah 58:13-14 NKJV says,

If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD.

Let's talk about this scripture in more detail. The word pleasure can mean to do whatever you want to do according to Strong's Dictionary and so probably refers to making excuses to do work. So, we are not to do just anything we want on the Sabbath. Notice we are to delight in the Sabbath. In ancient times, the people could be consumed with work 7 days a week, especially those who served others. Notice that the Bible says those that serve us and even our animals are to rest on the Sabbath. Unlike the majority of the world, our God and King gives us a day off once a week. Deuteronomy 5:14 NKJV says, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you." The Sabbath is to be a delightful day for all.

Honoring God there in Isaiah refers to keeping the Sabbath. We are to rest on the Sabbath and keep the Sabbath holy. Holy means to make it separate and different than an ordinary day. By honoring the Sabbath, we acknowledge that God is the creator who rested on the Sabbath and made it holy. Genesis 2:2-3 NKJV says, "On the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." To sanctify the Sabbath is to make it holy, it is to be different than the other days of the week. In ancient times, people often had long workdays. It then makes sense that not resting on the Sabbath and not keeping the Sabbath holy is to not honor the creator God. Some people will say that we do not have to keep the Sabbath because it is Jewish. The Sabbath was instituted by God at the time of creation. Remember, they are God's feasts and God's commandments. Do you want to honor God or not. I choose to honor God and keep His commandments and Sabbath.

We are to even watch how we talk on the Sabbath Isaiah says. Since it is a day of rest we should not engage in any stressful conversations, arguments, conversations about work, or any other communication that would be considered stressful. I should add that we should also not engage in stressful activities on the Sabbath as well. Perhaps you would like to get other people's ideas on what is a stressful activity but keep it appropriate. The Bible says we are not to add or subtract from God's commandments. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "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." Also, not everyone considers the same things as work, but a stressful activity would most likely be work and it is wrong to do on the Sabbath.

Some things can naturally be applied from a commandment of God. Some do not and keeping misapplied commandments is to follow what man says instead of God. Idols are man-made and some misapplied commandments act as idols. Isaiah says people who are keeping man-made commandments are not following God. Isaiah 29:13 NKJV says, "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men."

Take for example the commandment not to kindle a fire on the Sabbath. I have tried to start a fire without a match, and I could not do it. It can be a lot of work! So, turning on a switch or driving a car is not kindling a fire. Those who walk long distances on the Sabbath with their children are causing their children to work on the Sabbath. They are disobeying the Sabbath by their man-made commandment not to drive a car on the Sabbath. It is difficult for little children to walk long distances. It would be much easier to drive.

I tend to be conservative with my activities on the Sabbath and make it a true day of rest. Think about what you are doing before you engage in an activity. For example, casual easy sports are okay, but not hard exercise. Working hard on playing a musical piece is hard work, but playing something that comes easy is okay. Be conscientious about the Sabbath so that you honor God on the Sabbath. Anything strenuous is work. Talk to God about whether or not you need to address an emergency on the Sabbath. Some things can wait until the next day.

Here are some other activities:

Simple dance.

Simple drawing.

Enjoying art.

Photography for fun

Easy exercise.

Children's games.

More advanced games.

Making crafts.

Easy learning.

Going to museums or touring.

Helping others with simple tasks.

Being especially kind.

Easy sports.

Casual sports.

Praying.

Reading for enjoyment.

Doing something fun.

Making up a fun activity.

Non-stressful conversation.

Make sure you do not work on the Sabbath. You will stand before God and not me. If it feels like work, it probably is work. If I think of something to do that involves work, I put it on my to do list for the week and I do not do it on the Sabbath. Do not confuse hard work as not actually doing work. Perhaps you can make up your own list of activities and a different list for the things you can do on the Sabbath. Remember, God made the Sabbath holy at the time of creation, so honor our creator (The Sabbath is Friday night to Saturday night and not the day of the pagan Sun god, Sunday.). In the 1800s, someone went around the world to see when the Jews kept the Sabbath. They all kept it on the same day. Israel knew when the Sabbath occurred because God gave them a double portion of manna before the Sabbath for 40 years!

The Torah Teaching.

Va'era means, "and I appeared." This portion begins with God telling Moshe (Moses) **that Yĕhōvâh, appeared** to Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya'akov as El Shaddai. Moshe writes that it was Yĕhōvâh speaking to our patriarchs in other places in the Bible, but it says that the patriarchs also knew God as El Shaddai which means God almighty. The ancient rabbis say that El Shaddai means God Almighty.

It is likely that they also knew God's real name as Yĕ-hō-vâh as well because God says that it will be God's name forever and it is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. The markings

I use are the IPA symbols used to pronounce words. I do this to try to help you say God's name right.

In Exodus 3:15 the word translated LORD in all capital letters is Yě-hō-váh. The word God is the Hebrew word that is translated God. So, it reads, "Yě-hō-váh God of your fathers." Exodus 3:15 NKJV says, "The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations." Yě-hō-váh is God's name forever.

In the last portion God said His name is **Yěhōváh** forever (see Exodus 3:15). We now have found 2,363 different manuscripts that point God's name as Yěhōváh according to Doctor Nehemia Gordon. The Old Testament believers used God's real name. For example, Ruth 2:4 NKJV says, "Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, 'The LORD be with you!' And they answered him, 'The LORD bless you!'" The word LORD in all capital letters both times in Ruth is Yěhōváh.

Also, Yeshua said that He declared God's name. John 17:26 NKJV says, "And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." It is wrong not to use God's real name at all as some do. Perhaps someday people will come to understand that the true God is Yěhōváh and begin using His name out of respect for Him.

Hebrew letters are also numbers. The words va'era (which means, and I appeared) and the name Yitzchak add up to 208). Yitzchak prefigured the Messiah by freely giving himself on Mount Moriah. Abraham did not have to use him as a sacrifice because God provided a ram as a substitute sacrifice. Yeshua came (He appeared) as our substitute sacrifice for our sins to bring us closer to God, rescue us, redeem us, and take us to be God's people. God delivered Israel from the Egyptians so they could avoid sin and serve God. Yeshua also came to deliver us from sin so that those who believe in Him could serve God.

The Bible commands us to have a ceremony for the Passover on God's feast of Pesach (see Exodus 12:24-25). This portion of the Torah tells us part of the story and includes God's special promise to Israel in Exodus 6:6-7. We also make some important interpretations for believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

Exodus 6:6-7 NKJV says,

"I am the LORD; I will **bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians,
I will **rescue you** from their bondage,
and I will **redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.
I will **take you** as My people, and I will be your God."

From this scripture we drink 4 cups during our Pesach service commemorating our deliverance from pagan Egypt, and also for what God did for us through Yeshua the Messiah.

- 1) God **brought us out** from the pagan Egyptians so we could avoid sin through His good commandments given to us at Mount Sinai. God also helps us in life through the Holy Spirit and helps us to keep His commandments through the work of the Messiah and the giving of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) God **delivered us** from the slavery to the Egyptians, and from the slavery of sin so

we could serve God through His commandments instead of serving sin.

3) God **brought us back** (redeemed us) to Him both at Mount Sinai and through Yeshua.

4) God **took us** to be His people both at Mount Sinai and through Yeshua the Messiah.

During these cups, we also commemorate what Yeshua did for us. Yeshua said that He gave us another helper, the Holy Spirit, to help deliver us from sin. God gave us the Torah at Mount Sinai to help us, and Yeshua gave us another helper, the Holy Spirit, to help us. Yeshua said in John 14:16-17 NKJV, "And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth." The Holy Spirit also acts as a witness to those who believe, but some reject that witness. Those that keep on sinning after they receive the Holy Spirit are living in unbelief and are not holy. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, **if you keep the commandments** of the LORD your God and walk in His ways."

To be holy we must keep God's commandments. Hebrews 12:14 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Those who are not living a holy life are not holy. They can repent of their sin, make a sincere confession of their guilt to God, and stop sinning. Then God will forgive them. 1 John 1:9 NKJV says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We are to confess our sins to God. Isaiah 1:18-19 NKJV says, "'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the LORD, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient.'"

Here is an interesting correlation between the Pharaoh and the devil:

Pharaoh made Israel into slaves. The devil wants mankind to be slaves to sin.

Pharaoh forced Israel into labor. The devil wants mankind to work for him and sin.

Pharaoh brought evil upon Israel. The devil brings evil on mankind.

Pharaoh deprived Israel of good. The devil deprives mankind of good through sin.

In contrast to what the devil wants to do:

God wants to set us free from the slavery of sin.

God wants to rescue us from the evil works of sin.

God wants to bring us back to Him and His blessings.

God wants to take us to be His good people whom He treasures.

Remember, the Torah gives us wisdom and understanding. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this 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**.'" God is a good God, and the Old Testament commandments are a blessing from God. We need to repeat this scripture frequently so people will hear the truth about the Torah. The Torah was given by God to help us, and we should want to follow God's commandments in the Old Testament portion.

It is not true the Torah is too hard to keep; that is a lie. Deuteronomy 30:11 NIV says, "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." We have some 2 million laws in the United States, and no one complains about that, but people seem to

have to complain about the few hundred or so commandments in the Torah. Yeshua gave us the Torah. He said in Matthew 11:30 NKJV, "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." The word "yoke" in Jewish understanding refers to the Torah and God's commandments. Yeshua is Jewish. Roshi (an important Jewish Rabbi) said about Deuteronomy 13:13, 'that the people who follow B'liya'al (Belial) are those that break the yoke of Torah.'

Some Jews also think the yoke is to also keep the man-made commandments of Judaism. Yeshua said in Matthew 15:9 NKJV, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Yeshua was against the man-made commandments of His time. The context in Matthew is about Yeshua telling them they are wrong for negating God's commandments in the Torah through their extra commands. Yeshua teaches that we are to keep the Torah. Are you following the made-up religion of those who deny God's good Old Testament commandments and the Holy Spirit or of those who follow the made-up commandments of the Sanhedrin? Stand strong in the truth. Psalms 119:155 NKJV says, "Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your statutes."

The Messiah also came to help us and give us the Holy Spirit. The fourth cup is most often associated with the ritual remembrance ceremony of Yeshua, but all the cups apply well to both Israel and the Messianic believers. The four cups are a tradition of Judaism but they also apply well to the Messiah as well. Tradition is woven into our lives and makes life easier. It is not wrong when understood in this way. We are commanded to do a Pesach service; we are to do what the Bible says. The made-up man-made commandments are not God's commandments. Since we are to do a Pesach service, we honor God by observing something that is well prepared. We have a free Passover service online at: <https://www.teshuvahsa.org/passover>.

We tell the story about God's deliverance at Pesach. God delivered Israel. And God in the form of Yeshua gave Himself and rose from the dead so that we could have eternal life through following God, keeping His commandments, and through the messianic work of the Holy Spirit. Yeshua is truly God, and He even healed everyone in some of the towns He was in. He created food from nothing for thousands a couple of times, John 21:25 NKJV says, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

God made an agreement with Israel that He would give them the land of Canaan and in subsequent portions, He is going to set them free from their oppressive bondage in Egypt so they can return to Canaan. God has heard the groaning of the people of Israel who the Egyptians were oppressing and using as slaves. Moshe told the people that God would deliver them from their oppression and that they would be His people. Pharaoh would not listen to Moshe and Pharaoh instead made them work harder. Moshe tells them again that God would deliver them, but this time the people wouldn't listen to him because they were discouraged. Moshe and Aaron had to decide to stand despite the Israelites being discouraged. We also need to take a stand spiritually no matter what.

God told Moshe and Aharon to go tell Pharaoh to let Israel go in spite of what was going on. If you remember, the midwives decided to fear God instead of Pharaoh and not kill the baby boys. God gave them peace and blessing (Exodus 1:17-21). Moshe too decided to fear God and stand up to Pharaoh.

Then some genealogy is given in the portion. God then tells Moshe that Moshe will be like god to Pharaoh and Aharon will be like Moshe's prophet. God will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will not let the people go, but God will bring them out with great judgments. Perhaps God hardens Pharaoh's heart to give Pharaoh free will. Moshe was 80 and Aharon was 83 at this time.

When the leader of some of the churches in the Amazon jungle told me that he sees me as Moses, I wasn't exactly excited about that. After all, Moshe didn't start his ministry until he was 80! Then a prophetic lady said the same thing shortly after that. Two people who live some 6,000 miles apart said I was like Moses. So, I decided to use Moshe (which is the Hebrew name for Moses) as my pen name and I sometimes refer to myself as Moshe or Rabbi Moshe.

Rabbi simply means teacher in our era. Yeshua had a problem with those who had pride. For example, anyone who has excessive pride about who they are is wrong, especially those who lift themselves up on the same level as God. Some names are obviously wrong like the use of Father which is also a name for God. Our congregation has agreed to allow me to use my pen name. Moshe means drawn out and perhaps God has drawn me out to deliver His people. I am one of many who are standing for the truths of God and the Bible. Won't you also stand strong for our God and truth?

When they first talk to Pharaoh, Aharon throws down his staff and it turns into a snake, but so does the staffs of Pharaoh's magicians. Aharon's staff eats the other snakes. Pharaoh wouldn't listen to Moshe and Aharon though. Next Moshe turns the river and even water in buckets into blood and it stinks and the fish die. The magicians also did the same and Pharaoh wouldn't listen. Pharaoh would also not let Israel go after the frogs covered the land. This time Pharaoh asked them to ask Yĕhōvāh for the frogs to go, but when they were gone, he still wouldn't let Israel go.

Then the Lord covered the land with lice and the magicians told Pharaoh it was the "finger of God." They could have said it was the arm of God so denoting strength. Instead, it is just the finger of God and perhaps are warning Pharaoh that he had better listen. Again, Pharaoh would not listen, so God sent swarms of insects only on the Egyptians. Pharaoh then said they could go, but when God took away the swarms, Pharaoh changed his mind again. Next God slew all the cattle of Egypt only, but Pharaoh would not let them go. Then Moshe and Aharon threw dust in the air before Pharaoh and sores appeared on men and animals, but Pharaoh still would not listen. Then God brought hail which destroyed their crops, but when Moshe stopped the hail, Pharaoh still would not let Israel go.

There are three more plagues to occur in the next portion: locusts, darkness, and the death of the first born. We must always remember that we do not want evil to befall others, but they will bring that on themselves through their sin. People can be so brainwashed by sin that they call evil good. Isaiah 5:20 NKJV, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil."

It is important to note that the plagues on Egypt were judgments on their false pagan gods. For example, when the Nile turns to blood, it shows the true God as being over the god of the Nile, etcetera.

Why does not God always intervene in history.

God does not always intervene in history because that would be taking away our free will. When God destroyed the world by a flood, it says that the intentions of every person were evil. That would include the children. For example, in evil societies like communism or oppressive societies, even the children take part in the oppression and murder of others.

God does judge evil societies at times but does not always intervene. It would seem that these oppressive societies bring evil on themselves and perhaps that is enough judgment. God will raise everyone from the dead and judge everyone at the end of time. Those who follow God's good commandments in the Bible will go to be in our good God's wonderful future kingdom and those who do not follow God's commandments will go to the lake of fire. Daniel 12:2 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Even if it appears that some get away with evil and that there is no universal justice, that is not true. God will apply right and good justice at the end of time to everyone who lived.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 NKJV says, "God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." Rabbi Shaul tells us not to be deceived. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." The unrighteous, those who do not do what is right will be sent to the lake of fire for eternity. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "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."

This would be a good time to talk about the characteristics of the true God.

The Character of the True God.

God is the creator, the provider of everything that exists, and is the only true God. He is not a physical God but can take the form of a man (as with Abraham) or even appear in a burning bush (as with Moshe). The true God is not His creation and therefore is not nature or anything that He created.

The creator God knows what is best for us and knows what is right. Therefore, there is a good and an evil. So, might does not make right. Doing what is right is not subject to opinion. God created mankind in His image and with the ability to act differently than the animals. God gave mankind free will and the choice of doing what is right or wrong, what is good or evil. Since God knows what is right and does what is right, God will judge everyone by His good standards and not our own. God has revealed the truths we need for life through His good commandments and has sent the Messiah Yeshua to further help mankind through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Since God created mankind, we are all descendants of Adam and we are all related. Acts 17:26 NKJV says, "He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth." Because God created everything that exists, we know that we are not a random piece of

rock as some believe. Each individual deserves dignity and respect and is a unique person with abilities, feelings, and the ability to also treat others with dignity and respect.

God is described in the Bible as a loving and good God throughout the Bible both in the Old and New Testament portions and He gives people the chance to change and turn from their sin and do what is right. Numbers 14:18 NKJV says, "The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation." There are many verses in the Bible that identify the good characteristics and works of God. For example, Galatians talks about a number of the good things the Holy Spirit does in the life of the believer. Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Psalms 36:5-10 NKJV says,

Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep;
O LORD, You preserve man and beast. How precious is Your lovingkindness, O
God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your
wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give
them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in
Your light we see light. Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,
and Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

We learn both in the Torah portion and the Haftarah that it is God's intention to give the land of Canaan to Israel. In the Tanakh it says that it will eventually be given to Israel in perpetuity, forever. In the Haftarah for today, Ezekiel who lived around 600 BC tells us that Israel's presence in the land is a witness to the nations that He is God. All that God is doing to bring Israel out of Egypt was and is a witness to the world that God will accomplish His will. That Israel exists is a witness to us that God exists. God will accomplish His will; that's a good thing for those of us who believe in God. We can trust that God will do what He says He will do.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is given to believers in the Messiah Yeshua and is a witness to those who listen to God and keep His commandments and who listen to the Holy Spirit. The Pharaoh should have believed after he saw the power of God but didn't. The Holy Spirit which is given to believers testifies to who God is. God expects those who receive the Holy Spirit to respond to Him in faith and action. It says in Hebrews 10:29 NKJV, "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" Let us not be like Pharaoh who wouldn't listen to God and didn't respect God.

The Haftarah for Va'era is Ezekiel 28:25-29:2. Before this Haftarah portion, Ezekiel prophesies against the King of Tyre (a far southern Lebanon port city) for his pride and for thinking that he is like God. He compares him to the fallen cherub that we know as Satan. Then he prophesies against Sidon (a port city about 40 miles north of Tyre in Lebanon).

God says there will come a time when the people around Israel will not bother Israel. Verse 25 begins with God saying Israel will be allowed to return home from around the nations including Babylon and live safely. God will execute judgment on the nations around them that hate them.

This is proof that God is who He says he is.

Then he gives a grievous prophecy against Egypt and says God will make the land desolate. God will bring back the Egyptians after 40 years, but Egypt will be a lowly nation. Then Ezekiel reports that Tyre has fallen to Babylon, and he says Egypt is next.

God returned Israel to their land of promise as predicted by Ezekiel. We should take the land promises to Israel seriously. The Bible says that God has given them the land and it is a testimony to the nations that He is God. No matter what happens, Israel will eventually have the land in perpetuity (forever).

Moshe came back to Egypt ready to go to work for God, but Pharaoh resisted him, and the people became discouraged because Pharaoh persecuted them even more. God told Moshe to keep at it and Moshe persisted. It is unimaginable what the indignant Pharaoh did to His people because he resisted God. That is the way of the world though; thoughtless, uncaring, and unbelieving. God is just the opposite. The Bible says that God is love.

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

We can pray to God to help us, and he may deliver us. Genesis 6:5

We can pray to God to deliver those who are under oppression, and he may deliver them; and we can even pray for sinners to repent as in the case of Pharaoh. Each person chooses their own destiny whether they will be in God's future kingdom or the lake of fire for eternity. Exodus 8:31; Revelation 21:8.

In closing, let us say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God, which is pronounced, Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used 6,521 times in the Old Testament portion according to Strong's Dictionary. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name. So, why not use God's real name? According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. In that verse and everywhere we see a name for God in all capitals (in some of our Bibles) it is this exclusive name for God, Yě-hō-váh. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah which means to exist. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. He is our eternal God and creator. I want to honor God's name. Will you also honor God's name?

Some people call God Hashem which means "the name." They dishonor God's name by not using His name (see Deuteronomy 29:20). When we honor someone, we use their name in an appropriate way. Christians for the most part do not use the true name of God. Why not begin using His true name and honor Him? Do not be afraid to use God's real name with respect. I say this in order to encourage you to use God's real name because it points to God being our eternal creator.

The ancient rabbis say that is God's name. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh. I have seen God's name pointed as Yě-hō-váh in the Aleppo Codex. Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people. So, let's put God's name on His people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
 יְאֹר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.