



#15 Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16
Torah Teaching
by Moshe Schwab

Names

Kefa – Peter
 Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one;
 Christ in the Greek means to be smudged
 Moshe – Moses
 Pesach – Passover
 Shaul – Paul
 Yeshua – Jesus' real name
 Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
 Yochanan – John
 Yochanan the Immerser – John the Baptist

Terms

Chametz – leavened bread
 Haftarah – reading from the prophets
 Moedim – God's feasts (Gen. 1:14; Lev. 23:1)
 Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
 Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
 Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah
 Bo – the 15th Torah portion

The Torah portion for this week is *Bo*. *Bo* means, “enter.” Moshe and Aharon are told by God to ask Pharaoh how much longer will he not submit to God and not let His people go? That is a good question to ask ourselves. Is there any place in our life where we are not submitting to God?

I would like to begin today by talking about how people are often busy staying to themselves and engaging in things they enjoy doing. We talked last week about how God wants us to enjoy all that He has provided. Some people decide that their life is all about these things and not about making God more a part of their life.

We need to do fun things in life, but it is also 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 has a high level of commitment. He understood what God's commandments can mean in life.

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. We need to be proud of God's good commandments and learn to love them.

We learn to enjoy something by continual practice. When I first began to play catch, it was difficult but after a lot of practice, I became good at it and I enjoy a good game of catch. Being active in life and participating in life can be rewarding in many ways. Watching TV can be fun but if that is all we do, then we are missing out on living life and accomplishing things in life. We can learn to enjoy work and accomplishing something, we can learn to appreciate our family by doing things with our family and helping one another, and we can learn to enjoy our walk with God by applying ourselves spiritually.

Decide that you will appreciate God's commandments and make them an important part of your 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." If I had never tried to play catch, I never would have had the opportunity to enjoy it. Perhaps you have heard the saying, "You get out of life what you put into it."

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. In other words, delight in keeping God's commandments like you would anything else you accomplish.

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 to God. 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.

We talked about this last week. 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.

People who help others spiritually or in some other way often feel a sense of satisfaction from doing it. The most satisfying thing in life is to please our creator by doing what He says to do and keep His commandments. There probably is no better thing to do in life than being able to look back on our life and be able to acknowledge that we pleased our creator.

King Solomon saw that all the works of mankind can be tedious and do not last. We should enjoy life but also enjoy our spiritual activities and that includes keeping God's commandments. When I caught the ball for the first time, I felt I accomplished something, and I wanted to excel at doing that. We should also want to excel at keeping God's commandments and our spiritual activities. I take a considerable amount of time each day to pray. Not all of us are able to do that but I know God uses my prayer and will answer them at times. I believed at times that someone was praying for me and then someone told me they were praying for me. We are not praying just to make us feel better. We are praying to the creator God who is able to do great things for us. See for example our, "Divine Healing Prayer Class." Our spiritual activities are important both for ourselves and others. I have both witnessed and experienced the power of God. There is even a two-volume book on the existence of miracles and healing. It is not true; God is not far from each of us if we are willing to make God more a part of our life.

The worship of things and activities more than God.

What things in life do we hold near and dear? Church, country, children, what we own. While these can be important in life, they are not to be worshipped. A lot of people make their life all about some of these things. Of course, our lives are not to revolve around doing evil. That would be tragic for a number of reasons. One of those is not just a separation from God, but eternity in the lake of fire (see Revelation 21:8). Yochanan tells us to value our spiritual life over the things and activities of the world.

1 John 2:15-17 NKJV says,
 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.

Engage with spiritual things in life and not just activities we enjoy doing. I remember a story by Denis Prager who said that he gave up an important baseball game to keep how he felt he should keep Shabbat. He also relates that his Christian friend gave up going to the same game because he had a spiritual activity planned. It is not worldly things that need to drive us in life and not so much the physical because this present world is passing away. We need to keep God's commandments and be His holy people. When my cousin first believed in God, he told me that he wanted to be holy. What a great attitude. 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." Kefa talks about this

in 2 Peter. He puts it in good perspective. We need to be a holy people while waiting for the new heavens and earth.

2 Peter 3:10-13 NKJV says,

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

This life is not all there is. God is able to raise the dead because He is God. The Torah tells us that there is a future life. Genesis 35:29 NKJV says, "So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days." You do not go to be with dead people. "Gathered to his people" is an idiom for joining God's people in the future kingdom. They believed in the resurrection. For example, see Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever."

If you have ever had the opportunity to see the stars outside of the city, they can be amazing and beautiful. You will either raise from the dead to everlasting contempt and being repulsive for eternity or raise from the dead and be amazing and beautiful. God must judge those who do evil. They think they will get away with what they are doing, but they will not. People will put a lot of effort into looking good to others, why not look amazing for eternity? Believing in eternal life is not just something to make us feel good. God is able to do that because he is God. I take comfort in there being a reckoning for how we live life. This scripture in Revelation gives us more information on what is coming. 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." Those who do not keep God's commandments will go to the lake of fire for eternity.

Those who follow God's commandments will be in His wonderful and amazing future kingdom where even the streets are made of gold. Revelation 21:21 NKJV says, "And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass." Also, God will make all things new. It will be the ultimate environmental restoration of everything. Revelation 21:4-5 NKJV says, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'"

Be ready to engage with life spiritually. We began to talk about this some earlier. Again, here are some of the 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. In other words, delight in keeping God's commandments like you would anything else you accomplish.

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

Just like we need to eat and have a home, we need to think of our spiritual life and activities as important. Deuteronomy 8:3 NKJV, "He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD." They learned that they needed God as much as anything else and we need to understand that too.

God is the creator and our provider. His commandments help us and the world He created provides for us.

Psalms 19:8-11 NKJV says,

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 104:10-13 NKJV says,

He sends the springs into the valleys; they flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them the birds of the heavens have their home; they sing among the branches. He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

Take comfort in God's goodness and help. As believers in the true God, we are to keep God's commandments because He is a good and all-knowing God who knows what is best and has His best intentions for mankind. Therefore, to reject God's commandments is to reject God and what is best for us. So, take comfort in God's commandments that He has provided for us.

God is good; therefore, His commandments are good. Psalms 34:8 NKJV says, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Since God's ways are good and what is best in life, those who keep His commandments experience good things in life. Psalms 34:12-14 NKJV says, "Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Also, Psalms 37:3 NKJV says, "Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness." Often, people think that they can define what is right and good, but it is our all-knowing creator God who knows what is "right and good" and what is best for us. Again, Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV is an

important scripture to remember: It 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.**" God wants things to go well for mankind and that is why He gives us instructions to follow. God's laws are not meant to be a burden. If we run a red light while driving, we could end up in a terrible automobile accident. It is the same with God's commandments. Not following them can lead to terrible consequences.

Be open to God's power and allow God to use you. God is the creator and has given us good commandments and the help of the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 NKJV says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Since God is the creator, is there anything too difficult for Him? So, when Rabbi Shaul talked to people about God, he also told them about the power of God. The same God who gave the ancient believers food and water in the desert is also able to help us. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NKJV says, "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

We do not believe in God because we need a father figure or believe in God just to be at peace in an uncertain world. Since the inception of time, God has always wanted us to be in relationship with Him and receive His blessings. God placed man in the garden, but man went his own way. God reached out to man and made promises to mankind and to Israel. In this Messianic scripture we see God's love for those who love Him. Zephaniah 3:17 CJB says, "The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." In Ex 15:26 NKJV God tells the people of Israel: "I am the Lord who heals you." In the scriptures we see God healing and also Yeshua healing people miraculously. At times it says that Yeshua healed all the people there (see Matthew 15:29-31)! Yeshua cared about people. God cares about us.

Yeshua sent out 12 Rabbis and He was also training others to go out and pray. He trained and sent 70 others out too (see Luke 10:1). Rabbi Shaul was not one of the 12 or 70 and he prayed with power. We are also sent out to pray for others and we too can experience God's power. Mark 16:17-18 NKJV, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." A couple of months after my friend Dave came back from doing ministry in India, he told me that he prayed for a blind man and all this stuff began oozing out of the man's eyes and the blind man was healed instantly. My friend Larry prayed for a teenage boy in Russia whose one leg was shorter than the other. He put his hand on the boy's leg and while he had his hand on the boy's leg, the leg grew to the same length as the other leg. Larry is a medical professional! My friend Harold prayed for a young man with the same problem and God healed the young man. Only God can do that.

In praying for people God will sometimes answer our prayers. Sometimes the answer is yes, and sometimes it is no. Sometimes the answer is not yet, but no matter what - God loves us.

Ultimately, we will be completely whole in the new heaven and earth. In the meantime, God gave us the Holy Spirit as another helper in life along with the law. John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth."

Kefa tells us in the Book of Acts that we are supposed to receive the Holy Spirit when we believe in the Messiah. Acts 2:38-39 NKJV says, "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." The Holy Spirit is good and is for all those who will believe in the Messiah Yeshua even to those who are far away in time. That includes us. The Bible is not just a bunch of words on a page but is about the real and true powerful God who cares about His creation. Rabbi Shaul writes in 1Corinthians 4:20 NKJV, "For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power."

Toray Study

The Torah portion for this week is *Bo*. *Bo* means, "enter." Moshe and Aharon are told by God to ask Pharaoh how much longer will he not submit to God and not let His people go? If someone said to me, "How much longer will you not submit to God," it would sure get my attention. How about you? Will you submit to God, or will you keep doing things your own way?

Some people contradict the Bible.

At one time, I posed a question to someone. Did Yeshua really get rid of the law? Matthew 5:17 NKJV, "Yeshua said, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets." The fact that He had to say that speaks volumes prophetically. Many of these people were committed to keeping God's commandments; so, in a way, Yeshua didn't need to say that at all. Perhaps Yeshua meant that for people who needed to hear that the Old Testament commandments are not done away as some mistakenly say.

People sometimes reverse what Yeshua said. If a person told you that they believed in God, would you go around telling people that they didn't? That is the logic somehow people use to reverse what Yeshua said. Kefa said, "As also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures;" 2 Peter 3:15-16 NKJV. What are they untaught in? There was no New Testament at the time. What kind of destruction do you think he is talking about?

Back in Yeshua's time and Shaul's time, many people thought they were in relationship with God by only keeping laws or rituals instead of believing in God. Shaul had to correct that idea in His letters. Then people take that the wrong way and say that it is only by faith that we are in relationship with God. So, Ya'akov told us that it is not just by faith but by faith and works. James 2:19-20 NKJV says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons

believe – and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead."

Romans 2:23 NKJV says, "You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?" So, people dishonor God when they break the law. Shaul is trying to explain in his letters that it is important to have faith in the Messiah Yeshua. We are to believe in the Messiah Yeshua, but not to forget to keep God's commandments.

In Romans 10, Shaul makes several points for faith in Yeshua:

Verse 1, Shaul (Paul) expresses a deep desire for Israel.

Verse 2, Israel has zeal, but needs to know more.

Verse 3, God has a way to help Israel to be righteous (righteous means to live right).

Verse 4, the Messiah will help us to live right – a better understanding of the verse.

Verses 5-8, uses a Jewish comparison with Deuteronomy 30:11-16; the Messiah is here, believe in Him.

Verses 9-10, the Messiah is Yeshua; He is both God and Messiah who was raised from the dead.

Verses 11, says they will not be humiliated for believing in the Messiah.

Verse 13, all who call on Him will be delivered; a reference to Joel 3:5.

Verse 14, trust in the Messiah.

Verse 15, you've now heard about the Messiah, so believe.

Verse 16, this is the announcement to you about the Messiah, so believe.

Verse 17, again they have heard, so they should trust in the Messiah.

Verses 18-21; 11:5, not all have believed, but as in the past, some have endured and believed; all have the choice to believe; that has always been God's way.

Verse 11:1, God has not cast away Israel.

In Romans 10:4, Christ refers to Messiah, and can be translated goal as in other places in the Bible, and law could be translated as Torah. Therefore, Romans 10:4 could be translated, "The Messiah is the purpose (the goal) of the Torah toward (*eis* in the Greek) righteousness." One of the key words is "*eis*" in the verse which means toward something. In this case, toward righteousness should be understood as to live right, keep the law. 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." Keeping God's good commandments helps us in life. How do you live right? By keeping God's commandments.

Yochanan says that not keeping the law is sin and of the devil. 1 John 3:4 NIKV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness;" He goes on to say in verse 8, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning." Those who are teaching that the law is done away are of the devil according to John and that is also implied in the Epistle of James. Again, some say that it only by faith we are saved. James 2:19-20 NKJV says, "Even the demons believe – and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"

The unbelieving rabbis also change God's words. For example, the ancient rabbis considered

Isaiah 53 to be about the Messiah. Even Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah is an obvious symbol of the Messiah providing a sacrifice for us, but they reverse the scriptures in order to manipulate what they refer to. God provided a sacrifice on Mount Moriah instead of Isaac. Some rabbis say Isaiah 53 is about Israel. Some Christians reframe the entire Old Testament portion without Israel being part of it, but the entire Old Testament is mostly about Israel. It seems people have gone overboard with their man-made interpretations.

In this portion, we read about the amazing power of God and about Israel being set free so they could be free to keep God's commandments and serve God. In this era, we also have the opportunity to follow God if we so choose.

The Egyptians and Pharaoh were trusting in their false gods – the river god, the frog god etcetera. God brings the last three plagues on the Egyptians: locusts, darkness for three days, and death of the first born. In order for Israel to avoid their first born dying, they had to take a lamb or goat, kill it, put its blood on the lintel and door posts, and roast it and eat it. From then on, they were to remember Pesach every year on the 14th of Nisan at twilight and eat unleavened bread for the next 7 days.

It is important to remember.

Before we get to the details in this portion, the portion begins by telling us to remember what God did. I used to think that remembering was just about what God did back then and what He is still doing today. I have seen many miracles and have been healed a number of times.

But we should also remember that God cares about us and has given His people His good commandments and the Holy Spirit to help us (see John 14:15-17). God also created everything that is and is therefore our provider. We learn about the goodness of God in both the Old Testament and New Testament portions. We need to remember to be thankful to God for all that He is and has done, and will do.

On a side note, there is a movement in the United States to defame what our country has stood for. So, some are reframing our country as an evil entity, but nothing is further from the truth. We should remember that our country was made to bring freedom and equality to its people and has done a lot to promote freedom around the world. Although it is not a perfect country, it has changed by at times to create a better society.

Our country is unlike some countries like that of countries that impose the Communist Religion on its people. Those societies must subvert and kill anyone who objects to their government religion. Our country and its people try to make changes to keep our country free and make it a better place to live. Note that the term used by the Communist Religion, "equity to all" means we are no different and so the people must conform or else. Equality means we are free to pursue good things and grow and mature, and we do not have to do it just the way the government tells us. Consider this. If we were all the same, then you would probably not object to a ditch digger doing surgery on you. We are equal but we do not all have the same drive and abilities. Having freedom promotes the freedom to be innovative and skilled. Those who believe in the Communist Religion are motivated to serve their government.

In this portion, God made locusts to cover the land and Pharaoh's servants told Pharaoh that he should let Israel go. Pharaoh briefly considers letting Israel go, but he relented and didn't let them go. Then God told Moshe to raise his hand toward the sky and there was darkness over the land for three days. It says in John 3:19 that mankind has preferred darkness and sin. There was light in the homes of the Israelites though. Isn't that amazing! That's where the light was; it was with and in the believing community. Then Pharaoh said they could go, but they had to leave their flocks. Moshe said they needed them, and Pharaoh changed his mind and told Moshe that they couldn't go and if he saw Moshe's face again, Moshe would die.

Next is the death of the first born. It is then that Pharaoh lets Israel leave Egypt. The Israelites were to ask for their neighbor's gold and silver, and it says the people were favorably disposed toward Israel and considered Moshe a great man. Israel was to begin their year on the month of Nisan every year and on the tenth of Nisan they were to select a lamb without defect in its first year. They were to kill it at dusk on the 14th of Nisan and observe Pesach (Passover) from the evening of the 14th to the evening of the 21st and also eat no chametz (leavened bread). **In order to keep God's feasts appropriately, we need to know the Jewish calendar** and when the Jewish months begin. The real first day of Jewish months is the reappearance of the Moon. The calendars of Israel are set calendars much like the pagan Gregorian calendar. Since they use a set calendar, they often show God's feasts on the wrong day. They can even be a couple of days off. The Gregorian calendar is a pagan oriented calendar. It does not help us to know when to observe God's feasts. So, for God's feasts, we need to know when the Moon reappears and observe God's feast on the correct date that the Bible says it is to be celebrated.

The Biblical Calendar is different than the Gregorian Calendar.

Exodus 12:24 NKJV says, "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever." The word "observe" means to keep or guard; it is the Hebrew word *shamar*. We are to guard the Passover and God's feasts. They are God's *moedim* which means meetings. In Genesis 1:14, the word seasons is *moedim*. The lights in the heavens are to determine our meeting times with God. In Leviticus 23:1, *moedim* refers to God's feasts. So *moedim* in Genesis refers to God's feasts. The stars and moon were created in the sky for signs and so we could observe God's feasts. Shaul says we are to keep the Passover. 1 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV says, "Therefore let us **keep the feast**, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." Shaul expects believers to be keeping the Passover and God's other meeting times that were instituted at creation; they were for believers in the past and are still relevant for believers.

On the first and last days of Unleavened Bread, they were to have a holy assembly, and they were to not work except to prepare food. There is typically a holy assembly for a Pesach meal. Exodus 12:16 NKJV says, "No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you;" It is okay to prepare food for our families on Shabbat, but we shouldn't do any cumbersome laborious celebrations on Shabbat – that would be work. Don't make unnecessary work for yourself on Shabbat. Also, they were

to explain to their children that God spared their houses from the death of the first born.

They observed what Moshe told them to do, and they were to put the lamb or goat's blood on the doorposts and lintels. They were to roast it and eat it in a hurry with matza. The blood on their homes was to mark the houses that God passes over and their first born would not die. That's why it is called the Passover. The Jews see salvation occurring on Pesach. Yeshua, whose name means salvation, gave Himself on Pesach some 1,447 years later after the first Pesach. Yeshua came to rescue us. Recent research places Israel leaving Egypt in 1447 BC and not 1305 or 1285 BC.

In the middle of the night, God allows the destroyer to kill all the first born of Egypt. The ancients considered the first born to be important. We see the believing line following true believers who followed God and not necessarily the first born. Being the first born doesn't make a person a believer. God plays no favorites the Bible says, believing and behaving like we believe pleases God. Authentic spiritual leaders follow God's commandments.

Pharaoh tells Moshe, Aharon, and the people of Israel to leave along with their herds. The people of Egypt gave the Israelites silver and gold jewelry and clothing and gave them whatever they requested. Israel went up from Ra'amses to Sukkot with 600,000 men. It was a mixed crowd, and they baked matza from the dough they brought from Egypt.

A mixed group refers to people from Egypt and other nations who joined Israel in faith as they left Egypt.

The mixed group (see Exodus 12:38) was perhaps about 2 million people when women and children are included. They left so they could be set free from the sinful idolatry of the Egyptians and serve God. God dealt with the idols of Egypt the Bible says in Exodus 12:12. They spent 430 years in Canaan and Egypt (215 in Canaan and 215 in Egypt – some say it is 210 and 220). It was 430 years to the day that they began their journey back to Canaan. God was giving them the land of Canaan because of the terrible sin in the land of the Canaanites; the pagans even sacrificed their children to the pagan gods.

We should note that believers in Messiah are also a mixed group. It seems the giving of the Holy Spirit returned the Jews to their own roots where all who accept the true God can be part of the believing community. A mixed group of Jews and Gentiles left Egypt, and the Gentiles were assimilated into Israel. It had to be both Jews and Egyptians because of the number of people who left Egypt. It would have been impossible for the Israelites to have had that many offspring in only 215 years. For example, the Bible tells us Caleb was not Jewish but was assimilated into the tribe of Judah. His genealogy is in the Bible. Numbers 32:12 NKJV says, "Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite." He became Israelite and he represented Judah as one of the twelve spies. He joined the tribe of Judah. The rabbis say "mixed group" means it was people who had different jobs. This obviously is not true. The rabbis also say Caleb was Jewish. This is obviously only true in the sense that he became Jewish. If people don't like what the Bible says, they change what it is saying or means. When we change God's word, we don't have God's word anymore.

The believers in Messiah too are a mixed group of Jews and Gentiles who are set free from sin by the Messiah. We should remember that it is through God's hand and sacrifice we become heirs of salvation through Yeshua. Just as Israel was set free from sin to serve God, we are also set free to live for Yēhōvāh. Yeshua's sacrificial act of humility resulted in God giving the Holy Spirit so that the power of God would work in us through the Holy Spirit and help us live right. The Pesach meal foreshadows the time when the Messiah Yeshua gave up His life sacrificially for us so that we can be forgiven of our sins, live by the power of God, and obtain eternal life through the help of God's commandments and the Messiah.

*Yeshua is referred to as God's lamb by Yochanan the Immerser.
The Jews back then clearly understood that the Messiah was to
die for our sins as it prophecies in Isaiah 53 about the Messiah.*

Israel had lived in Canaan and Egypt for 430 years to the day. No foreigner was to eat the Pesach lamb, but a circumcised servant could or a circumcised foreigner that lived in the land could. In John 1:29 CJB, it says that Yochanan identified Yeshua as our deliverer, as "God's lamb. "The next day, Yochanan saw Yeshua coming toward him and said, 'Look! God's lamb!'"

They also were not to break any bones of the Pesach lamb. That is also a fulfillment of prophecy about our righteous Messiah Yeshua (see Psalm 34:19-20). The soldiers pierced Yeshua instead of breaking His bones. John 19:33-34 NKJV says, "They did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear." Zechariah 12:10 NKJV is a prophecy about Yeshua being pierced; "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."

Yeshua was from the line of David. The Greek manuscripts **do not** show Yeshua being from the line of David. Some of the Hebrew manuscripts of Matthew 1 put Yeshua in the line of David. Often, the Greek manuscripts were corrected by the Hebrew manuscripts. For example, the story about the woman caught in adultery was **not** in the Greek manuscripts for hundreds of years but was finally put in John 8 because it was in the Hebrew manuscripts.

But not everything in the Greek manuscripts got corrected. Words in the Greek scriptures were changed to disassociate the Bible from its Jewishness or to even persecute the Jews. Yeshua was Jewish and so were all the early believers. We now have lots of Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament portion. The reason there are more Greek manuscripts is because the Roman empire secretly stole the early faith and made it illegal to have the Hebrew scriptures. They killed the early believers and burned the Hebrew manuscripts wherever they found them.

Their Greek manuscripts were intended to change the scriptures in order to disassociate the scriptures from their Jewish context by changing the meaning of some scriptures and commanding the people not to keep God's feasts. There are still people today who wrongly oppose the Hebrew New Testament manuscripts. They are those who follow in the footsteps of those who killed the early believers and burned the Hebrew scriptures of the New

Testament. Because of this, when you tell people about the Hebrew scriptures of the New Testament make sure you qualify that by including the murder and persecution of the early believers, the replacement of true doctrine by the Roman Empire, and the burning of the Hebrew New Testament scriptures that took place by anti-Jewish so called Christians. Those who commit murder in the name of their god do not follow what God says in the Bible and therefore they are not true Christians.

There are still people today who oppose the Hebrew origins of the Bible and persecute those who believe in the true God.

When Israel gets to their land, they were to set aside the firstborn men and animals and redeem the men; they could also redeem a donkey with a lamb. It would be a sign on their hand and frontlets between their eyes that God brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand. This reference to a sign on their hands and frontlets between their eyes was never meant to be physically done as some say (by using a tefillin). That was something they were to do mentally. A phylactery or tefillin was not worn in Judaism until the first century AD.

The Haftarah for Bo is Jeremiah 46:13-28. This portion begins by saying that Egypt will be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar; Babylon are more than locusts it says obviously referring to one of the ten plagues. Egypt will be handed over to Babylon. Israel also would have to suffer for their sin, but God promised to return Israel from their exile in Babylon.

We see a God in this portion who wants us to do what is right and He wants to restore His people. We see in the New Testament portion that God provides a way through the Messiah to also restore us to Him. In addition to God's commandments, we need the Messiah and the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us. Yeshua gave us the Torah and He gave us another helper, the Holy Spirit. John 14:15-17 NKJV, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth."

**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 are to remember what God did. Remembering helps us understand that God is a good, caring, and loving God who want what is best for us. Exodus 10:2.

Moshe and Aharon were obedient to God's revelation. We too need to be obedient to what God tells us to do.

The actual first Jewish month is the month of Nisan and not Tishri. Exodus 12:2.

We are allowed to prepare food on God's days of rest. Exodus 12:16.

The Feast of Passover is to be kept along with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The 14th at dusk, just before the 15th of Nisan is when the Passover ritual begins. Remember, in God's reckoning, the day begins in the evening; it says in Genesis 1:5, "Evening and the morning were the first day." The Passover meal extends into the 15th of Nisan which begins the Feast of Unleavened Bread and is a day of rest and so is the 7th day, the 21st of Nisan. We are not to eat any leavened bread during this time. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is also referred to as the 1st through the 7th day of Passover by some. No foreigner or uncircumcised person is allowed to eat the Passover meal that begins on the 14th of Nisan. There is an exception to this. Adults who become believers do not have to be circumcised because of the danger involved with circumcision. The Torah teaches that we are to protect life and that supersedes other commands (see Deuteronomy 22:4 or Luke 14:5). Those who do not protect life are Torah breakers. Male children are to still be circumcised. Galatians 5:11 NKJV says, "I still preach circumcision." No bones were to be broken, and no meat is to be removed from the house. Exodus 12:14-20, 43-49, 13:6-10.

The first born of both man and animal is to be consecrated to God. Exodus 13:1, 12-16.

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

We need to explain why we use God's real name in the Aaronic blessing. Some believe we are not supposed to use God's name, but they are mistaken. 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 over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. Won't you also honor God's name and use His true name with respect at times. The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. Over 2,000 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh.

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. It is a commandment to put God's name on His people and by not using God's name, some are not keeping this commandment. What an honor it is to be a people of the creator and true God.

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

יְבִרְכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ
יְאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיַחַנֶּךָ
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיִשְׁם 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.