



**#19 Terumah Exodus 25:1-27:19**  
**Torah Teaching**  
**By Moshe Schwab**

**Names**

Kefa – Peter

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

Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert

Moshe – Moses

Shaul – Paul

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

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

Yochanan – John

**Terms**

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the  
Torah

Terumah – the 19<sup>th</sup> Torah portion

The portion for today, Terumah, means contribution. God has Moshe receive contributions necessary for the building of a holy place, the Mishkan, also known as the Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting which would be located within the camp of Israel. The people appear excited about this and are eager to contribute and build the Mishkan.

People are often eager to accomplish tasks. Whatever the reason Israel was so predisposed to do this, it shows that among the many good things that God put in mankind, accomplishment is one of those things that make us who we are. We talk about God making us a special people in our other teachings. Genesis talks about God making us in His likeness. Genesis 1:26 NKJV says, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.'" We are not God, but God has given us the abilities to create, to be kind, to teach, to work, to decide, and so much more. The animals have a drive to eat and survive, to learn to a certain extent as well. It seems God put in animals and us the basic qualities we need to survive and in the case of mankind, some innate character traits to help us to succeed in life.

Whether we are fulfilling a physical need or emotional need, it seems this drive is available to us if we do not talk ourselves out of it. The Bible teaches us that there are spiritual forces at work against mankind. So, with good principles to guide us and initiative we can overcome these spiritual forces sometimes referred to as the demonic. Do not let the demonic take away your drive to succeed. Rabbi Shaul said that he is not going to let anything keep him from succeeding. Of course he is applying this to his spiritual life, but we can also apply this, do not give up attitude to our physical life as well.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I

fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Most of us understand that people rely on each other and provide services for others. Without the person at the checkout counter in our stores we could not buy anything. There is a saying, "No man is an island." We are all important for society. We each have the ability to find ways in life to provide for ourselves and improve ourselves.

For example, those who enter the job market start out poor, but as they increase their abilities to provide for the community, they usually improve their condition. Statistics show that for the most part, those who were poor 10 years ago are no longer in poverty. It is those initially entering the job market who are typically poor; they improve their conditions over time. The poor usually do not remain poor.

There is so much more than what meets the eye regarding the drive of accomplishment. Science will say that it is something that is in us because mankind developed this ourselves and it became part of what humans need to survive. So, why aren't we more like the animals? The animals seem to do well enough with their limited abilities.

People even have the ability to get involved with things in life that do not seem to have a function. Playing soccer for the most part isn't something that provides the necessities of life, yet people will have great zeal to be accomplished at things that do not seem to have much value. Let's take this a step further. Why does it seem that people will be drawn to develop unseen values or come to understand that there is a spiritual side to life? People can often come to the conclusion that the physical side of life is not all there is to life and consider what we call the spiritual side of life as an important part of our development as a person.

Is what we do a function of our willpower? If that was so, why is it so important for us to develop ourselves in life and our drive in life? It is not just a matter of ancient hard wiring (namely how nature developed us) so to speak because people can get off track and make decisions that are counterproductive to having a good life and do things that can end in tragedy. People need a set of values for life, and these must be developed, they do not just happen.

Those who do not believe in a God often think that everything is just by chance and those who succeed do that because they are more intelligent, advanced, or the fittest to succeed. Often, those who are successful in life have not only developed their abilities, but good values. Many of the best and most satisfying values for life have come from the Bible. Atheists will say they do not need to believe in God to have these values, but without the Bible, they would be aimlessly searching to find a best way to live. It is obvious that all of mankind needs the values the Bible teaches.

From the very beginning, God gave mankind direction in life, but mankind went after evil. Genesis 3:22 NKJV says, "Man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil." We know there is good and evil. Some will argue that everything depends on who wins in the end, but no

one will survive if evil prevails because there won't be anyone around to win. When a society becomes a society of evil, no one wins. In the Genesis narrative, evil had taken such control of mankind that the thoughts of mankind had become evil continually. Genesis 6:5 NKJV says, "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." That included the children. We saw this happening in 20<sup>th</sup> century Religious Communism where the children informed on their parents for the sake of their Atheist Communist Religion and their parents were then murdered.

Any ideal can be called a religion, and the violence of Religious Communism reveals that it is not only a religion, but it is a murderous religion. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this religion murdered over 100 million of their own people if you include the atheistic dictatorship of Germany. It is most certainly a religion, and it is the most murderous religion to ever exist. No Christian or Jew should follow the tenets of communism; it is an evil false religion.

Since mankind had become evil, they had no direction in life to help them live right. That's where the Bible comes in. Noah taught God's commandments and the good values humankind needs for life. 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 God's good values for life, His commandments. Deuteronomy 5:33 NKJV says, "You shall **walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you**, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days." Walking with God is an idiom for keeping God's good commandments. God's good values for life can prolong our days.

What is motivating you in life? Live by the values that God has given us to help us in life. God's commandments give us good knowledge and judgement for life. Psalms 119:66 NKJV says, "Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments." God is good and He gave us good statutes for life. Psalms 119:68 NKJV says, "You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes." The values that God has given us are of more value than all the money in the world. Psalms 119:72 NKJV says, "The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver." God's law is good doctrine for life. Doctrine refers to a set of principles for life. Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: do not forsake my law." Of all the things in life that can motivate us, keeping God's law is the most profitable way to accomplish a satisfying and good life.

What godly values do we see when we look into our hearts?

We need to make the decision in life to do what is right even if no one is watching. Part of that is to affirm our commitment to God and His commandments on a regular basis. I begin every day by telling God that I desire to do what is "right and good" Deuteronomy 6:17-18 says, God's commandments are "right and good." 1 Kings 8:61 NKJV says, "Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments." Often society tells us to be true to our hearts without defining exactly what that means. People sometimes think that they are a good person and think that everything they decide in life will be good because they think they are good.

But intentions and our own ideas can be deceitful. Jeremiah 17:9-10 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the

heart, I test the mind." While there are a lot of good people with good intentions, wrong concepts and ideals can be evil at times. Ideals and beliefs can be a religion even if that religion does not believe in a god (see the Stanford Dictionary of Philosophy and Religion).

Like I have said before, Hitler (who followed the Atheist religion) thought that getting rid of those who were a burden society would make for a better German society. It led to the murder of some 11 million of their own people. While most of us do not come close to thinking the way the leaders of the Atheist religion or Communist religions do, it goes to show us how much the world needs the principles from the Bible. You shall not murder is one of the commandments and that in itself would stop a lot of the evil going on in this world. We should be extremely thankful for God's good commandments! This is one of my favorite verses. God says in Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV, "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 gave us good commandments and wants what is best for mankind.

Having appreciation for all that God has given us is important in life. We should also be thankful and appreciate those who care about us and love us. Having a positive attitude helps us to stay away from destructive negative attitudes. Showing appreciation and being a thankful person helps us to never take any good thing in life for granted. No person is an island so to speak and we need each other. Without the truck driver, we would not get supplies to our stores and without the cashier in the store, we would not be able to buy anything. I try to be respectful to all I meet.

As we already said, everyone is worthy of dignity and respect because we are created in God's likeness with the ability to create, be kind, to be caring and so much more. Genesis 1:26 NKJV says, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." God has created us with so many special abilities. God shows us that He even cares about the animals because we are commanded to let our animals rest on the Sabbath (see Exodus 20:8-11). God created the world so that mankind and every living thing could survive and prosper. Psalms 145:16 NKJV says, "You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing." God gave us instructions for life through His commandments so we would know best how to live. God also gave us another helper through the Messiah, the Holy Spirit (see John 14:15-17). God has been so good to us. Psalms 28:7 NKJV says, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him."

The Psalmist sings praises to God because of God's goodness. It is good to demonstrate our thankfulness to God in some way. Obeying God demonstrates our thankfulness. I once heard someone say, "What did God ever do for me?" They did not know about God and His goodness. How sad. Most people have parents that selflessly looked out for them. In the same way, God has looked out for the best interests of mankind. Deuteronomy 10:13 NKJV says, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good." God's commandments are for our good. He knows how we best should live because He is the creator.

Also, we should be thankful to the people who help us in life and care about us. We should never take them for granted. So, make sure you let those who are closest to you know that you appreciate them and be specific. Let them know what exactly you appreciate and are thankful for. When someone does something for you that you enjoy, thank them.

Be willing to be who we are supposed to be spiritually no matter what the circumstances are but use good judgement. We have to use good sense and not irritate those who do not know God. Proverbs 9:8 NKJV says, "Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you." Wise people are those who know God's commandments are good (see Deuteronomy 4:6). A scoffer makes fun of those who know the good truths from God for life. Some say there are no truths to live by, but we know that is not true. Even the most ignorant person can figure out that there is a good way to do things and a not so good way.

Learn, grow, and apply ourselves to keeping God's commandments and that applies to the Holy Spirit as well.

Joshua 1:7-8 NKJV says,

Be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

We are to be strong and keeps God's commandments. They will help us in life and help us to succeed.

Be determined, disciplined, dependable, mindful, loyal, and sincere in life and especially in our spiritual life. Again, here are some great scriptures in 1 Corinthians that teaches us to be determined in life to follow God the way we should. We have talked about Shaul's determination before. Because he was a Jewish leader, he probably had memorized the entire Old Testament. Yet, he still fights spiritually to stay true to God.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV says,

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

What did he discipline himself to do? Romans 3:31 NKJV says, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." He kept the law of God's commandments in the Torah. He followed what Yeshua taught. 1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV says, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." Yeshua kept the law and taught the law. Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Yeshua will reject those who do not keep the law. Also, it says in 1 John 3:4 NKJV, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." It is a sin

not to keep the law. All the writers of the scriptures tell us in one way or another that we are to keep the Old Testament laws.

I once heard a story about a lady who became a believer, but when she began reading the Bible, she realized that she was being lied to about keeping God's commandments. She then rejected God because of their teaching. Wouldn't it have been much better if she had accepted God because she got to know how wonderful His commandments were?

Since we are created in God's likeness with special abilities, we should respect others and respect life. We need to be caring about others, patient, kind, able to lead appropriately, and be selfless at times. That is part of understanding how to apply God's commandments. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." Because God's commandments are truths that we need for life, they are the best way to care about those we come in contact with. Jeremiah 9:24 NKJV says, "But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD." God wants us to have lovingkindness and good judgment. Righteousness means to do what is right and refers to keeping God's commandments. God's commandments are "right and good" according to Deuteronomy 6:17-18. Psalms 119:142 NKJV says, "Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth." We need to live by God's truths in life.

Also, appreciating what is right and good spiritually, being able to trust others, and being trustworthy are good virtues. We need to be encouraging, caring, and trustworthy. Someone told me once that entire nations have been known to crumble due to dishonesty. Focus on doing what is "right and good" and the other good attributes that come with following God. Shaul puts it well.

Philippians 4:6-9 NKJV says,

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Our home life should most of all reflect the attitudes, behaviors, and actions associated with what we believe. Of course, we should behave like we are believers in all of life whether at home or on the job. In Ezekiel 10, we see the presence of God leaving because of the pervasive sin going on at that time. Some have the Holy Spirit in our present era, but they do not follow God's commandments and live the way they are supposed to. They will not go unpunished.

Hebrews 10:28-31 NKJV says,

Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 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? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

We are to be a special people who keep God's commandments and receive the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit. 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." We are to walk in God's commandments. Walking with God is to keep His commandments. Deuteronomy 5:33 NKJV says, "You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you." Isn't that wonderful! God wants us to keep His commandments and walk with Him. Also, Yeshua wants us to have the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our life. Acts 1:8 NKJV says, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." It is an honor to have the power of God at work in life.

Are our works all about man-made concepts? Some follow lots of man-made concepts. The Sanhedrin felt they needed to define how to keep God's commandments and in doing so, they made up a lot of extra commandments. The same is true about Christianity today. Many churches have made up a philosophy, a theology of the scriptures that contradicts what Yeshua taught and what the Bible says. The Bible says those who follow man-made religion are following people instead of 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." They are far from God because they do not follow God's law but the teachings of their church, their congregation, or some other ideas or ideals.

Take for example the teaching that the Old Testament scriptures are done away with. These scriptures in Isaiah tell us that those who want to follow God properly can do so and become part of God's family of believers. Remember, righteousness refers to keeping God's law. To do what is righteous is to keep God's law of truth. Psalms 119:142 NKJV says, "Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth." We need to live by God's truths in life. And, the law is good doctrine. Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law." Some people mistakenly believe in other doctrines instead of God's doctrine, the law.

Isaiah 56:1-8 NKJV says,

Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil. Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD speak, saying, "The LORD has utterly separated me from His people;" or let the eunuch say, "Here I am, a dry tree." For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and

daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. "Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants – Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant – Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him."

Some say that Gentiles do not have to keep God's commandments but according to this, they do. Like I said before, all the writers of the scriptures say we need to keep God's commandments. Why? Because God is a good God and gives us good commandments to help us in life. Shaul said that people living in sin will not be in God's future kingdom (see 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21. Shaul says, "Do not be deceived." in 1 Corinthians 6:9.

What do we see when we look into our hearts? Do we see a commitment to God? Our home life and all we do in life should reflect godly attitudes, behaviors, and actions. Our life should reflect the glory of God and that we are His people who follow Him. How can you say you are a follower of God if you do not actually follow what He says? We are to be a special holy people and that means we are to follow God's commandments and also receive the power of the Holy Spirit in this present Messianic age. We are to follow God's doctrine and not made-up philosophies or man-made religion. There is one standard for life and that is to keep God's doctrine. Those who believe in God and act accordingly join the other believers who kept God's commandments over the history of mankind. Be strong and follow God's good commandments and also receive the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Torah Study**

This portion for today, Terumah, means contribution. God gives Israel specific instructions on how to make the *Mishkan* which means dwelling place; they would make their sacrifices there. In Exodus 25:8, it says that God would *Shakhan* (dwell) among them. God wants to be among His people. Isn't that exciting!

God was among His people at the Mishkan in the desert, at the Temples in Jerusalem, through the Holy Spirit given by the Messiah Yeshua in this Messianic age and will be among His people at the Temple in Jerusalem in the future kingdom. Revelation 21:1-3 NKJV is about the future kingdom and says, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men."

The Ark was placed toward the back of the Mishkan away from the entrance to the Mishkan; it was placed in the most holy place; the holy of holies. The focus of modern Messianic congregations is often on what they call an Ark that is placed in the front of the meeting place

behind the podium and against the back wall. The Ark in Messianic congregations is an enclosure that contains the Torah scroll. Some will take the scroll from the Ark during the service and may have a Torah procession and then read from the Torah scroll. Although this is not a commanded ritual in the Bible, it is a good spiritual picture of the respect we need to have for God, His commandments, and His word.

The prophet Nehemiah was the probably the person who instituted the weekly readings; so, we know that is something instituted by God. Moshe could have been the one to institute the weekly readings. Acts 20:21 NKJV tells us, "Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." The prophets were scrutinized for what they said under penalty of death. Moshe was a prophet and so was Nehemiah. The Torah scroll is often handwritten in Hebrew by a scribe, the original language of the Bible. Everything is copied exactly the same as the ancient scrolls that were passed down to us. It takes 2 years to become a Torah scribe.

We now have found many New Testament manuscripts written in Hebrew. We now know that the gospels were all originally written in Hebrew including a number of the books of the New Testament. The first Hebrew New Testament was put together around 150 AD and called the Itala text. In the later 200s, the Hebrew text was translated into Greek by Lucian, but because it was different from the heretic Greek text created by the Roman Empire, the Roman Empire destroyed the Lucian translation. Those who had Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament were also killed and the Hebrew manuscripts were destroyed by the Roman Empire because the Roman Empire was trying to replace the true manuscripts of the New Testament with a false version of Christianity.

The Greek text was often corrected by the Hebrew manuscripts because the Greek had been tampered with. Jerome, who lived from the mid-300s to the early 400s says:

"Matthew, who was the first in Judea to produce a Gospel of Christ in Hebrew letters. **We must confess that as we have it in our (Greek) language it is marked by discrepancies**, and now that the stream is distributed into different channels **we must go back to the fountainhead.**"<sup>1</sup>

The language with the discrepancies that he is talking about are the Greek manuscripts; the Roman Empire was a Greco-Roman Empire at the time. Jerome said they must go back to the original Hebrew scriptures (the fountainhead) and correct the Greek manuscripts.

Jerome must have corrected the Greek text to some extent with the Hebrew, but not all was corrected. The Greek manuscripts still contain anti-Jewish elements and anti-law elements because in general, those in the Roman Empire were anti-Jewish and did not want to keep God's commandments. They also changed what it said in some places to make it more acceptable to the Empire. The story of the woman caught in adultery was not put into the Greek text until some time later, the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was added because it was in the Hebrew New Testament.

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<sup>1</sup> Jerome, Commentary on Matthew, 12.13, 2.5

Of course, those who hate the Hebrew scriptures continue the persecution and the dissonance of the Roman Empire who killed and burned anyone caught with the Hebrew copies of the New Testament. The Roman Empire wanted to make themselves into the true faith. They are not. Why talk about this? The devil tries to spread lies about our faith. Yeshua said the devil was a liar (see John 8:44).

We have a number of books of the Bible that have been translated into English from Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament portion including the Epistle of James. Ya'akov was James' real name and when Shaul wanted his issue about the Gentiles decided upon, Shaul went to Jerusalem in Acts 15 and Ya'akov made the final decision. Ya'akov was the authentic leader of our early faith and not Peter.

**From the Hebrew James 1:25 it reads,**

"But anyone who observes himself by the whole Torah, which is the instruction of the Examiner, and stands in torah, not hearing it [the Torah] in forgetfulness, for if he works the work, his happiness is in his actions." From, The Epistle of James (YA'AKOV) A Translation from the Hebrew, by Doctor Miles Jones, page 24.

**The Greek reads in James 1:25 KJV,**

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Look at the difference! James from the Hebrew has us following the Torah and God's commandments. The Greek was changed to give us the impression that the Torah has been done away and that we do not have to keep God's feasts and keep His other commandments. Heretics did this in order to establish their pagan Roman/Greek religion as authentic. It is not the authentic faith. We have inherited heretical lies into our doctrine.

It is always worth mentioning that Shaul taught that we are to keep God's Old Testament commandments. Shaul says in Romans 3:31 NKJV, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Even Yochanan says in 1 John 3:4 that, "Sin is lawlessness." Those who do not keep the law, the Torah, are sinning. Anytime we think that it is saying that we are not to keep the Old Testament commandments, it is either because of errors in the manuscripts, mistranslation by the translators, or a misunderstanding of the scriptures. Also, theologies which are just man-made ideas about what the Bible is saying confuse and brainwash people. There are many scriptures that we can understand; focus on those. Do not let those who are trapped in false doctrine confuse you.

Instead of incorporating pagan practice, Israel was to put together something different. Have we ever thought about how we might apply this as believers in the Messiah? I was watching this video about culture in the Caribbean Islands one time, and they showed these people practicing Voodoo and singing until they began dropping on the floor or shaking or doing other strange things. Is some of modern Christianity adopting pagan Voodoo into its practice? I was very much surprised by what I saw on that video. What are Christians welcoming during their times of singing?

I was taught early on in my faith that we are not to give ourselves over to possession, but there are some people who do this regularly when they go to church. I was at this one church meeting where a young woman fell down and began making noises like a parrot. This is not the true God. I have experienced great peace while praying or singing, but it did not come by working myself into a frenzy as some do when they go to church. There was a religious movement not long ago where people were accepting all kinds of strange things like barking like a dog or roaring like a lion. Some denominations recognized this as improper ritual practice and not from the true God.

### We can experience God.

There are some things people can experience when they do encounter the true God. We might feel the presence of the Holy Spirit just like Israel did at the Mishkan in the desert and at the Temple or we might feel great peace. They were overwhelmed. 2 Chronicles 7:1-2 NKJV says, "The glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house." God's presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit can be overwhelming at times too. God's gifts involve mostly voluntary actions; people are not possessed like the woman who was making noises like a parrot. For example, I was in England standing by the grave of an early believer from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. I felt like I should prophesy. So, by my own free will, I gave a prophecy there. Nobody seemed to care what I was doing.

**I encourage you to check our prayer class online that contains information on praying for others and using God's gifts of the Holy Spirit.** Being connected to God through the power of the Holy Spirit is part of our heritage. Acts 1:8 NKJV says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Our prayer class also teaches how to be appropriate when praying for others. Being appropriate is good in all areas of life. Doing what is right and good, teaching and following the Old and New Testament scriptures, and living by the power of the Holy Spirit makes full use of the light of God in our lives.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will speak to us and we either respond or we do not. It turned out that the story behind this person who was buried there was that he had led many to believe in the true God and he had healed many people in the name of Yeshua. I think God wanted to me to know that He remembers what we do in His name. It says in Hebrews 6:10 NKJV, "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Also, God will not forget Israel's labor of love; for their faith when they were in the desert and also when they took up a collection for the Mishkan in the desert. Think about how much faith was involved for 2 million people to leave Egypt and trust in God!

*It was an amazing miracle of faith  
for the some 2 million who left Egypt.*

Terumah means, "offering." This portion begins with God instructing Moshe to take up a free will collection for a holy place (sanctuary – the Mishkan) and the items and clothing associated with the ritual practice that Israel was to do. Exodus 25:2 NKJV says, "From everyone **who**

**gives it willingly with his heart** you shall take My offering." It is close in language to what Shaul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJV, "So **let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity**; for God loves a cheerful giver." The biblical norm for putting up a building to meet in was from free will contributions. In the case of Shaul, it is also referring to a free will gift (also see Luke 7:4). Since giving to the building of the Mishkan was a free will offering, people did not complain about something that was imposed on them.

The biblical practice was supposed to be the giving of a little over 10 percent per year. Giving was based on a 7-year cycle. They were to give to the poor, the Levites, widows, orphans, and foreigner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years and other years they were to bring their giving to Jerusalem (see Deuteronomy 26:12).

The rabbis made it so that they always gave to Jerusalem. Much of Christianity does the same thing and asks their members to give all of their 10% to their church. Some churches ask for proof that their people are giving what they should by asking them what they earn. We should remember that whether we give to our congregation or to the poor, we should give willingly from the heart. That is what the Old Testament portion teaches us. Shaul used the Old Testament scriptures as his basis for life. For example, Shaul says in For the Scripture says, 1 Timothy 5:18 NKJV, "'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,'" and, "'The laborer is worthy of his wages.'" (see Deuteronomy 24:15 and Deuteronomy 25:4).<sup>2</sup> Giving should be adjusted to reflect what the Bible says and not all of our 10% should go to our congregation.

#### The purpose of work.

This is a good time to talk about work. The various kinds of work we do provides for ourselves and our family, helps maintain order and cleanliness in the home, helps with upkeep of our home and for household provisions, can protect our home and home environment, and helps provide the basic things we need for life like food, cooking, hygiene and so forth. Perhaps the most important of these is the work we put into keeping and teaching about God and His commandments. Whether it is for just a single person or a family, it is sometimes overlooked due to our busy lives, but it should never be neglected.

Working at a job often provides services to others whether it is for a company or a particular service we offer. Either way, our work represents ourselves. If we do good work, people get to enjoy what we have done for them. In the case of the company, our good work reflects on the company and helps to keep the company in business. In doing so, we not only keep our job but help to create job security for the others who work with us or for us. A person who does good work will properly be recognized for the work. Proverbs 22:29 NKJV says, 'Do you see a man skilled at his work? He will serve kings.'

No matter what kind of work we do, our work represents who we are. If you do poor work, you will be recognized for your bad work and people will not want what you have to offer. Also, if you make very little effort to work on your spiritual life it will show up in your attitude and

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<sup>2</sup> Since a poor person is to be paid the same day, a person's pay should be given to them in a timely manner – they are worthy of the pay they expect within an acceptable period of time.

conduct. People will often identify the kind of person you are by the kind of work you do and the kind of spiritual life you lead.

There are those who are poor for no fault of their own and often remain poor because of a disability or some other reason that is beyond their control. For example, I know of a family that was poor because they had a large hospital bill for saving the life of their child. Those who do not work can sap the resources of society so that those who need it do not get the help they need. They generally are only thinking of themselves. They could do better for themselves by working but are often greedy for the handouts they get and depend on others instead of having the dignity of providing for themselves. They get trapped in their lifestyle by their selfishness, greed, and lack of drive.

Another issue that goes along with this is the nations that give to other nations that are unjust. This often leads to continued injustice in those nations. Nations that are poor are often poor because their leaders sometimes take most of the resources that country has for themselves or their purposes. In the case of some countries, they will instead use their resources for warfare instead of helping their people. They use their people for power and resources through acts of aggression towards others. When someone helps that nation, they are encouraging them to continue their murderous agenda. When a nation helps an unjust nation, they are encouraging them to continue what they are doing with no consequences.

There are other reasons. In communism, the people lack incentive because the government is in control of everything and owns everything and subjugates the people to equity. Everybody is the same no matter what and the state exists not for the people but the state. For example, in Russia the people of one city needed food so they went to a small city in the country and took their food and left those people to die. Therefore, in communism it does not matter if someone has the drive to do better or not. Equity is not the same as being equal. All people are equal but do not have the same desire to do a good job or accomplish something.

The Bible teaches us to be givers and in order to give to others, we need to provide some service or money that helps others or provides for those who have need. There can be considerable satisfaction from giving. Giving in essence helps people, helps accomplish tasks, and can do many more things. It helps us to connect with others and to learn and grow personally and spiritually. We often develop patience, drive, and self-discipline from work and giving.

The portion continues. The details are given about how the Ark that holds the 10 Commandments is to be made and what was to be put in it. God would speak to them from above the Ark cover. The word for the Ark cover means atonement. The Ark is to have two beings on it with wings called Cherubim. Some think these beings are there because they are special to God. Perhaps this tells us that our God is the creator and God of all beings in the universe and that these beings are especially faithful to God. There are beings referred to in the Bible that are not from earth. We do not know much about them. But the creator God can create other beings if He so desires because He is God. In Genesis, the Bible talks about giant creatures called the Nephilim. People have theories about these strange beings, and some think they still exist on the earth but in secret. I believe it is best to concentrate on the things that

God wants to teach us to help us in life than lots of guessing or conjecture. Why waste your time and energy on something God has not revealed to us yet? Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV says, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever."

We should understand that the Bible does talk about other beings. God would have no reason to just make up some make-believe creatures, so it stands to reason that they are real beings. Perhaps we will meet them in God's future kingdom. I do not know. That is not the important issue. We need to follow the good instructions of the creator God who wants what is best for mankind. Some say that because there are other beings besides human beings that the idea of God is just made up. Why would God tell us about these creatures if we do not need to understand that God is the creator of all that exists?

Also, since He is God, He is able to raise us from the dead to be in His future eternal kingdom like it says in the Bible. Those who stay faithful to God's instructions for life will be raised from the dead to be in God's future kingdom. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 NKJV says, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." Those who do not follow God the way they are supposed to will end up in the Lake of Fire (see Revelation 21:8).

They were also to make a table and dishes and keep the bread of God's presence on a table there. They were to make a menorah (lamp) with seven lamps. They were to make everything with the designs that God showed Moshe on the mountain.

Then specific directions are given for the construction of the Mishkan. The holy place and the especially holy place were to be separated by a curtain and the table and menorah were to be put outside the curtain with the table to the north. They were to make an entrance to the Mishkan and altar with its implements. They were to make a courtyard 150' x 75' with a gate and the courtyard was to be 7 1/2' high. The equipment and tent pegs were to be made of bronze.

In this portion the Lord tells Moshe to take up an offering for the construction of the Mishkan and very specific directions on how to make it and the articles to be used in it. Perhaps this should remind us that we are to worship God in the way God chooses and keep His commandments. He is not to be worshipped how the pagan gods are worshipped or treated without respect. He is not to be worshipped in a profane way. Profane means to treat something as ordinary when it is special. Also, this should remind us that we should take care of our place of prayer and worship, it should not have pagan elements in it, and it is a place of respect where we also welcome the presence of God just as the presence of God was at the Mishkan.

Just as the presence of God was at the Mishkan, the presence of God is in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We should also understand that we are to treat our bodies as holy vessels for the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV says, "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit

who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." We glorify God by doing what He tells us to do. We are to behave like we are members of the family of our Father God. It makes sense; we are His people if we do what He says and keep His commandments. 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**. When we do that, we make God king of our lives as He should be. When we do not keep God's commandments, we state by our actions that we do not respect God for who He is, and we have turned our backs on God.

The Haftarah for Terumah is 1 Kings 5:26-6:13. God had told David that he was not to build the Temple, but that His son Shlomo (Solomon) would build the Temple. In this portion we see that Shlomo was extremely zealous to prepare for the building of the Temple. This perhaps should remind us that we should be zealous about spiritual things as well. Being zealous for spiritual things keeps us in line with reality. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NKJV says, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Our eternal destiny is far more valuable than what the world has to give us.

**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.)**

Israel was commanded to give gifts for building a holy place, the Mishkan, in the desert where God would dwell among the people (see Exodus 25:8). This implies that we are to give gifts for God's purposes. God will give us more specifics on giving in the Torah portions to come.

God wants us to be a people who are givers and not be a burden to society. As believers, we should work and do a good job in anything we do because it represents who we are; especially because we are believers in God. We should be willing to help others both through our own skills and effort, or financially.

God desires that He would dwell among His people. God also had Israel build a Temple in Jerusalem. In the present, we are to believe in the Messiah Yeshua and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit so that God will dwell among His Messianic believers (see Acts 2:38-39). I should note that having the Holy Spirit does not mean we will automatically be in His future kingdom. We must do what is "right and good" and follow God's commandments and also follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 12:14 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

Also, God will be among His people in the future kingdom. Yeshua now serves in the heavenly Temple that will come to earth. Hebrews 8:1-2 NKJV says, "We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man." This heavenly tabernacle will

come down from heaven and be in New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:1-3 NKJV says, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men.'"

The future Temple will not be built by man. Also, there seems to be a possible double meaning in these verses in Revelation about what will tabernacle with men. Namely, both the Temple and Yeshua. Ezekiel details the future heavenly Temple (see Ezekiel 40-48). It says in the gospel of John that Yeshua tabernacled among us. Yeshua tabernacled among us when He came the first time, and He will also tabernacle among us as our future king.

They were not to remove the poles that carry the Ark. Exodus 25:15. Perhaps this carries with it the idea that we are to always be ready to follow God just as Israel was to be ready to follow where God was leading them in the desert.

The Mishkan was to be built in a particular way. It demonstrates that there is to be order in the way we do things and in our lives. We should do what God says, namely, keep His commandments. We are designed by God in a particular way and are to live in special particular way.

### **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:

יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ  
 יְאָר יְהוָה פְּנֵיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ  
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵיו 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.