



#37 Shelach Lekha Numbers 13:1-15:41
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
Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Mishkan – tent of meeting in the desert
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah
(There are also transliterations from Hebrew)

Shelach Lekha means, "send for yourself." This parashah talks about the scouts or spies who were sent into Canaan to scout the land. After forty days, the spies returned and 10 negative spies said that although the land was plentiful, the people there were well fortified. Some of the Israelites responded by being filled with fear.

Satur the son of Michael who was one of the negative scouts, whose name adds up to 666, was thought to be the instigator of the unbelief among Israel. Perhaps the number used by Yochanan (John) in the book of Revelation, 666, has more to do with a people who lack faith in God and are negatively focused. One of the tenets of the religion of Communism is to create dissatisfaction, discontent, and unbelief in God. This more appropriately seems to be the system that is trying to maintain control by force. The Atheist Communist religion murdered over 100 million people in the 1900s and they are still murdering people. Any ideology can be termed a religion and Communism most definitely is an influential, violent, and controlling ideology. Perhaps the most murderous religion to have ever existed.

I repeat some things in our teachings to help those who have not heard them, hear them. It also is good to refresh our thinking at times. Good concepts are good to remember something even if we have heard them frequently. I have heard that it takes up to 6 repetitions to remember something. That is why good teachers find ways to repeat what they teach.

In our teachings, we use the Hebrew names for some of the people of the Bible. For example, Moses' real name was Moshe. Jesus' real name is Yeshua. Paul's real name was Shaul. Paul may have had a Greek name as well but most of his dealings were with other Jews who would have called him Shaul. Have you ever had trouble remembering someone's name because they had a different name than most people? Paul was probably an easier name for Gentiles to remember. Enjoy using the Hebrew names, after all, that was their real names. The Bible was written by people who spoke Hebrew.

We know Yeshua's real name is Yeshua because that is how it is used in the scriptures of the Hebrew New Testament. Yeshua means salvation and the Hebrew Bible uses a Hebrew word play on His name in Matthew 1:21. He will be called Yeshua (salvation) for Yoshi'a (He will save) His people from their sin. Hebrew word plays are common in the Hebrew text of the Bible. You may prefer to use Jesus for His name, but I prefer to use His real name and why not? Don't we try to call people we know by their real name and not a made-up name?

We also use God's real name with respect at times. God's real name, Yĕhōvâh, is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion of the Bible. Since God's real name is used that many times in the scriptures, it makes sense that we should be using His real name. Also, I feel closer to the creator God by using His real name because of what it means. God's real name forms an acronym from the Hebrew verb to exist. Yĕhōvâh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. We have a wonderful eternal God and king.

Hebrew as the original language.

I thought it might be good to share again on how the Hebrew language may be the original language of mankind. The reason the Old Testament is called the Old Testament is because it is older than the New Testament portion. The New Testament portion was written about 2,000 years ago. Some of the Old Testament portion was written about 3,500 years ago and the primary language that was used was Hebrew. God had the first few books of the Bible put in writing when Israel escaped their mistreatment at the hand of the Egyptians around 1447 BC. Before that, God's commandments were passed on verbally. We knew this because before God's commandments were written down at Mount Sinai and while they were in the desert, the ancient believers kept God's commandments.

For example, Abraham kept God's commandments and that was way before the Old Testament portion was written down. Genesis 26:5 NKJV says, "Abraham obeyed My voice and **kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.**" It is emphatic by repetition. Some say he did not keep the Torah because he ate meat with milk, but that command is nowhere in the Bible, and it is not implicitly implied in the Bible either.

The Bible was written in the original Hebrew script. They have found ancient Hebrew script in a cave that perhaps can be dated to around 1650 BC. After Israel entered the land of Canaan, Israel came into contact with some seafaring people called the Phoenicians who had immigrated to Canaan from areas of Greece. They were known as the invaders in Canaan since they came from Greece.

The Greeks who were also known as the Phoenicians spread the Hebrew script through their trade and travel by sea. The Hebrew script used letters to represent sounds and that concept was then passed on to western society. Subsequently, most of the world now uses a system of letters that initially began with the Hebrew substitution of letters for sounds. There are some who believe that Hebrew is one of the most ancient languages in existence.

This is easily explained. Abraham was believed to have lived in the house of Noah for his own safety for a while (see the Book of Jasher). According to the ancient writings, Abraham may

have only been under the protection of the descendants of Noah because we are not sure Noah was still alive or perhaps Noah was still alive. Before Abraham moved to Canaan, Shem, the son of Noah, one of the survivors of the great flood had already moved to Canaan and was king of Salem (which later became known as Jerusalem). Shem was also known as Melchizedek (which means king of righteousness). Shem most likely brought his language with him and also his faith in the true God. Abraham must have shared in that language and faith because of his close association with Shem's family, the family of Noah. So, there is some credence to the assertion that Hebrew was the original language of mankind.

Those that believe that Hebrew was the original language of mankind often base that on the fact that the Bible was written in Hebrew. But as we see, there appears to be a historical connection to one of the early families of the earth. Consider not only the ancient written historical evidence, but how Hebrew continued to exist all these years. The original language may have been passed down as a way to continue teaching about the true God, just like the Hebrew language was.

We know that Noah was a **preacher of righteousness** (see 2 Peter 2:5). And in Genesis it says Noah walked with God. Doing what is right, **righteousness, means to keep God's commandments** and to **walk with God means to keep God's commandments**. For example. Psalms 19:9 NKJV says, "The **judgments of the LORD are true and righteous** altogether." So, God's Law, His judgments are true and right. Also, there are quite a few scriptures that tell us to walk with God is to keep God's Old Testament 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;" (also see Deuteronomy 8:6, 10:12, 11:22, 19:9, 26:17, 30:16, and other scriptures). It is possible that the language of Noah was the means to pass on God's commandments in his time and therefore the original language remained intact just like Hebrew has.

Hebrew remained intact because the Bible was the basis for learning about the true God in ancient times. Many cultures and even cities developed their own language. When I was in Newcastle, England, some of the people there could still speak Newcastle. Instead of Hebrew changing, the Bible kept the Hebrew language from changing. The ancient scriptures were then written down at Mount Sinai and in the desert by Moshe in the ancient Hebrew script, perhaps in the language of Noah and Abraham. Also, in Genesis it says that Adam talked with God. What language did they use? Perhaps Noah was still using that language. It could have been Hebrew. It does not seem as far-fetched as some say, and Hebrew being the original language is based on more than speculation. I thought these are some interesting insights that you might enjoy.

I would like to begin by talking about, we are people of light. Live as people of light for our own good. I personally find this concept interesting. Years ago, before so many anti-God assertions became commonplace, scientists found that people who believed in the true God had developed better DNA than those who didn't believe in the true God. Perhaps we could say that living like we were designed to live (by the creator God), makes us a healthier people. This can be easily understood by the fact that sin often creates lifestyles that are detrimental to a person's life. For example murderers often have shorter lives because they often hang around with other murderers. The same can be said about other sins. The Bible says that God's commandments

give us life and that fact can be proved medically and evidently also by examining people's DNA. Some people think there could be a fountain of life somewhere that would extend life. That fountain of life is through God's Old Testament commandments. Psalms 36:9 NKJV says, "For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light."

When the Bible uses the word light to describe what kind of people we are to be, it uses the term light to mean understanding. We get this this light, this understanding through God's commandments. Proverbs 6:23 NKJV says, "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light." Therefore, God's light, God's commandments help us in life and give us understanding. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'"

God's ways are the best ways for life and are truth and have been the mainstay for society and goodness for thousands of years. Psalms 43:3 NKJV says, "Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me." We need this light, this understanding so that we do not stumble in life. Psalms 119:105 NKJV says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Some people talk about being enlightened in the sense that they have figured things out on their own and act according to what they believe and not what God says is true. They are doing what they think is right in their own eyes. Proverbs 12:15 NKJV says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes." These people do not understand what is best in life. They may come up with some good ideas, but often not the best ideas on how to live. Their ideals can lead to hurtful and evil results. God has stretched out His hand to help mankind, but often people want to do things their own way instead of God's good ways. Isaiah 65:2 NKJV says, "I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts."

Doing what God says and being a truly enlightened person through the creator God is doing what is true, right, and good. God gave us His commandments for our own good. God's commandments are like a fountain that can give us an endless supply water. Jeremiah 2:13 NKJV says, "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water." Instead of choosing the endless supply of God's goodness through His commandments, people often make up broken ways for life, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Psalms 112:4 NKJV says, "Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous." God's light in His commandments are a demonstration of God's grace towards mankind and His compassion for us. God's light gives us clarity on how to live best. Psalms 18:28 NKJV says, "For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness."

Try God's ways in life and be renewed. Be refreshed through God.

People will try all kinds of different things in life to refresh their life and to be satisfied in life. Exodus 34:6-7 NKJV says, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and

transgression and sin." Some say that the God of the Old Testament portion is a harsh God. Have they read the Bible!?

Psalms 145:5-13 NKJV says,

I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness. **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion**, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

God was good, is good and will be good forever. So, refresh yourself in God's ways. Guard your thoughts and keep your thoughts. Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV says, "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" Don't we want what is best for our children? Teach them God's good commandments. God gave us His commandments for our own good. Deuteronomy 10:13 NKJV says, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good."

Keeping God's commandments can help things to go better in life and make for a better and more peace filled life, but we must also remember to pray about our concerns. Psalms 5:2 NKJV says, "Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray." Psalms 55:17 NKJV says, "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice." Trust in God's supernatural help and do not let your mind obsess about things in life. 1 Peter 5:7 NKJV says, "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." I do this every morning instead of worrying about all I have to do. It is a good thing to do about all our concerns.

Stay in the sure ways of life. Watch your step and do not be sidetracked.

When we trust in God and His commandments, they will help us in life. We have something to be thankful for, so be faithful. 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." Seek the true God and what he has to offer us. 1 Chronicles 16:11 NKJV says, "Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!" Do not let sin rule your life. Decide you will be faithful to God and do not sin. Psalms 119:133 NKJV says, "Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me." If a person gives into sin, they are being ruled by that sin. Instead let God's good truths rule your life.

Do not listen to those who would see you fail. They have no idea the goodness that can be had by following God.

Psalms 1:1-3 NKJV says,

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Get to know God's commandments and be ready to apply them. You will see the results of a godly life as you follow God. To be godly is to live how God would have us live.

Look to what is right and good. Do not be focused on worldly things.

We have to take care of ourselves and our family. There is a lot to learn from Genesis 1:26 where it says, we are created in the image of God and His likeness. God gave us the ability to care for ourselves and others, the ability to do good work, to be caring and kind, to organize, to clean and be clean, to give and provide, to provide shelter, food, and order, to have fun, have joy, and so much more. God gave us the ability to be satisfied and at peace, but the basis for this and for a good life begins with God's good commandments.

This scripture in Deuteronomy is a foundational scripture for life. We may pursue a lot of things in life, but God's commandments should be at the root of our life because they give us wisdom and understanding on how to live and are "right and good." Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you." We could say that we are to diligently keep and guard God's commandments according to the Hebrew.

Cast aside your own ideas on life in favor of what God says to do. Proverbs 3:7 NKJV says, "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil." Since God knows what is best, not keeping God's commandments produces evil. That is why religious Communism, religious Atheism, and religious Humanism caused the murders of over 100 million people in the 20th Century. They are false religions. Ideals can be classified as a religion. Religions that teach murder are false religions. We should understand that it is okay to defend ourselves from murderous people or murderous countries. Guard your thoughts from the negative attitudes of these religions. Christianity teaches to love others and Judaism teaches to help the stranger and to love others.

The doctrine of religious Communism teaches people dissatisfaction with anything but their own beliefs and therefore causes tension and hate. They will make up almost anything to get people to become dissatisfied in life so they can push their doctrine instead of what the Bible teaches. They will often make their ideas sound good.

Doing what you think is good may be okay, but it is not always right. The only way to know what is truly right and good comes from what the creator God says is "right and good." After all, God is the creator. Deuteronomy 12:8 NKJV says, "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today – every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes." The Bible tells us to not follow what we think is right or follow our own heart. Unless our heart lines up with God's commandments, we may end up doing evil and not good. The Bible contains God's instructions

for life. The word Torah refers to the first 5 books of the Bible and means instruction. We need the instructions of our creator God.

Be wise and accept God's instructions for life.

Proverbs 9:8-12 NKJV says,

Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone.

Do not be a mocker of God like some are. These mockers will not like you, so get used to it. Be willing to accept the correction of the Bible and be wise. A wise person can become wiser through God and His commandments. God wants to help mankind, but if you mock God and His good ways, you will have to bear the repercussions for your thoughts and actions if not in this world, most assuredly at the time of judgement. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

God does not want anyone to fail at life, but people have the choice to do so. 2 Peter 3:8-9 NKJV says, "But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." So, respect God and His wisdom that has provided mankind with the "right and good" ways for life. Repent and change your life to reflect God's truth and goodness.

Part of changing our life is to receive the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit. 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." God's commandments help us in life and the Holy Spirit is intended to be another helper. From the inception of time, God has reached out to mankind. The ancient man Noah reached out to mankind with God's truths (see 2 Peter 2:5).

The Holy Spirit can work powerfully in many ways. The Holy Spirit can give us wisdom and faith in life and so much more.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 NKJV says,

The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The Holy Spirit can even give us healings, miracles which are extraordinarily acts of God, and important information. The Holy Spirit can even help us to have love, peace, and joy in life (see Galatians 5:22-23). So, the Holy Spirit is an important Messianic gift.

One important thing to consider about the Holy Spirit. It seems God will give the Holy Spirit to all who keep asking (see Luke 11:9-13), and the Holy Spirit remains with us unconditionally. Some though continue to sin after they receive the Holy Spirit. **Living in sin is unbelief towards God** because it is not trusting in God's commandments. Those who live in sin will not be in God's future kingdom. 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."

Remember, God miraculously provided manna and water for about 2 million people while Israel was in the desert for some 39 years. They even saw a cloud over them during the day and a pillar of fire over the Tent of Meeting at night during that time. God also did this unconditionally, but some of them failed spiritually. God was testing the people.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble you and test you**, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So 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.

Similarly, God provides the Holy Spirit for us unconditionally. God is testing us as well. Do not fall short of God's grace through sin. Do not fail your test.

Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJV says,

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God.**

To be part of God's future kingdom we need to follow God's commandments. Do not fall short of God's grace, do not live in sin. Galatians 5:21 NKJV says, "I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9 NKJV says, "Do not be deceived." So do not be deceived by those who teach people not to keep God's good commandments. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "**Be careful to observe them**; for **this is your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the peoples who will hear **all these statutes**, and say, 'Surely this great nation is **a wise and understanding people**. God's commandments make us a wise and understanding people and they are from a good God.

In Conclusion.

We are people of light. Live as people of light for our own good. Be enlightened through God's best ways and truths for life. Be renewed and refreshed through God. He is the good creator God who wants to help mankind. The Bible says God gives us wisdom and understanding for life. Guard your thoughts for your own good. Stay in the sure ways of life. Watch your step and do not be sidetracked. God's commandments can help us in life. We truly have something to be thankful for. Look to what is right and good from God. Do not be focused on worldly things or

just on our own ideas on life. May our thoughts and hearts contain the good thoughts and ideals of our patient and caring God. Although we have a lot to do in life and we can be very busy, do not forget God's good commandments. Make them the basis for your life. Our good God has stretched out His hand to help us through His commandments and also through the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit.

We will now begin our Torah Study.

Shelach Lekha means, "send for yourself." This parashah talks about the scouts who were sent into Canaan to scout the land. Of particular interest to us is Caleb who became an Israelite and represented the tribe of Judah. He was not Jewish according to modern Jewish standards, but he was assimilated into the tribe of Judah. He was a Kenite and His genealogy is in the Bible. The Bible says the Israelites were a mixed group (see Exodus 12:38) so many of the other slaves in Egypt must have joined them when they had the opportunity to leave Egypt and many may have assimilated into the different tribes of Israel. It was always God's intention that the Gentiles be assimilated into the Jewish community. Moshe changed Hoshea's name to Yehoshua (also known as Joshua). The root of Hoshea means salvation and Yehoshua means God saves. Joshua could have felt that he was on a mission for God when Moshe changed his name.

Caleb and Joshua were the only scouts to give positive reports. Caleb and Joshua have believing attitudes towards God. Don't we all need to be a people who trust in God. Proverbs 3:5 NKJV says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." Trust in God and how He told us how to live. Trust in God and believe what the Bible says. The Old Testament is just as much the word of God as the New Testament.

Perhaps the scouts left for Canaan at the end of the month of Sivan because it is said that the sin of the spies took place on the 9th of Av (see Mishna Taanit 4:6-7). The 1st and 2nd Temples are said to have been destroyed on the 9th of Av. After forty days, the spies returned and the 10 negative spies said that although the land was plentiful, the people there were well fortified. Some of the Israelites responded by being filled with fear. The people were about to stone Moshe, but the presence of the Lord appeared, and the Lord threatened to disown them. Moshe pleads for the people and reiterates the mercy that God had revealed to Moshe previously and the Lord relents.

Watch out for negative ideals that can end up running your life, they can produce negative consequences if they are not based on the truths of the Bible. People can pay a big price for their lack of faith in God. Because of the Israelites negative attitude, sin, and unbelief, the people of that generation, those 20 and over except for those who didn't commit the sin of the ten spies, would die in the wilderness. Israel would spend forty years (38 more years) in the wilderness. Don't forget though that some 2 million people still made it to the promised land, isn't that wonderful! Believers are not perfect in our era either. Be a person who will make it into the future kingdom of God.

Those that spread the negative rumors would die. Satur the son of Michael who was one of the negative scouts, whose name adds up to 666, was thought to be the instigator of the unbelief among Israel. Perhaps the number used by Yochanan (John) in the book of Revelation, 666,

has more to do with a people who lack faith in God and are negatively focused. One of the tenets of the religion of Communism is to create dissatisfaction, discontent, and unbelief in God. This more appropriately seems to be the system that is trying to maintain control by force. The Atheist Communist religion murdered over 100 million people in the 1900s and they are still murdering people. It seems to make sense to me that the one world order talked about by some is this system of unbelief. Communism is also a religion because it has tenets just like other religions. Those who believe in the Communist religion work hard to get others to doubt what they believe and get people to believe in the Atheist Communist religion.

It seems more and more in this age that people are denying the existence of God and turning towards might makes right. That's what happens when people deny God and His good commandments. They make up good intentions and then say they are good, but their good intentions sometimes turn into evil because they have no set ethical standards. They believe what suits them and often what furthers their religion. They have become the most murderous religion to ever exist.

Psalms 14:1-2 NKJV says, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God." Sometimes we try to assess what is going on in the world and it looks like everyone has become fools. Just go to YouTube sometime and listen to some of the junk that's on there. There are as many opinions as there are people. If you want truth, you need to go to the Creator God who knows all and wants us to have the wisdom He has given us in the Bible. Start living truth by keeping God's commandments.

Some of the Israelites among the camp decided to go into Canaan after they were told not to, and they were defeated because they were no longer supposed to go into the land at that time. This teaches us that we need to listen to how God leads us. If He says no, then the answer is no.

Then information is presented about the giving of offerings after they enter the land. They stoned a man who was not keeping Shabbat. They all had different jobs. He was probably doing his job which he wasn't supposed to do on Shabbat. Also, it says they were to make fringes on the corners of their garments (called tzitzit) with a blue cord as a reminder to keep God's commandments and be a holy people. The Jews can't agree on the color blue, so they use all white cords. So, they don't keep the commandment to have a blue thread because of their micromanagement and man-made doctrines. Anything man-made can become an idol, even ideas.

It doesn't seem to occur to them that any shade of blue would provide for keeping this command. Instead of arguing about God's commandments, they need to do them. Deuteronomy 4:2 says, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." God said keep the Sabbath (Friday night and Saturday during the day), but Gentile theology says it is okay to change that. They are also changing God's commandments.

We repeatedly see that God expects His people to be a holy and believing people and be willing to follow God's leading. Israel kept moving forward even after some failed and we also need to keep moving forward spiritually. Also, the effect of the negative talk of the spies resulted in a lack of trust in God. Negative attitudes can be a deterrent to receiving God's promises. So, stay positive about our good and caring God who gave us good commandments.

What can we learn from the sin of the spies?

*The lack of faith and negative attitudes in this era has resulted in several things. Some are afraid of the Holy Spirit even though Yeshua commands us not to be afraid of the Holy Spirit in Luke 11:13 NKJV, "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." People think negative things about people who speak in tongues; there is nothing wrong with God's gifts; sometimes people can act a little weird, but that's not God's fault. We should not do weird things while using God's gifts. I encourage you to use God's gifts properly so people do not discredit them. Speaking in tongues is a good spiritual gift and so are all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Shaul encourages us to desire God's gifts as well. 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts;"

*Desiring God's spiritual gifts are God's commandments in this temporary Messianic age. Shaul said in 1 Corinthians 14:37 NKJV, "The things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." Wasn't Canaan a gift from God to Israel? Yet it seems at times that Israel misused what God gave them and sinned at times. We each have a choice about how we will live and where we will go for eternity. God wants you to do what is right and be in His future kingdom. 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV says, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Desire spiritual gifts in spite of those who are bad examples in life and practice.

*Unbelief and negative attitudes can affect many areas of our life. We work to provide for our family; our work represents who we are; we provide services for others; our job also provides for those who work with us. A negative attitude about work can be a detriment to our life and the lives of others.

*A negative attitude about people can affect how we treat them. Being negative can cause us to make others stumble. We are not to commit lashon harah (which means evil speaking). It is a properly applied command from the Old Testament portion. Stay positive, it's the best defense against the devil. God values people: we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26); we are valuable; others are valuable. Treat others with respect and dignity. Shaul said in Galatians 6:10 NKJV, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all." That's what we teach; not the hate that God haters teach. If people became conscientious understanding believers, this world would be a better place.

*Doing some things without God's permission can result in calamity. Some of those who went back to fight after God said not to ended up dying.

*We should always think about doing what is right. This portion ends by telling the people to wear fringes to remind them to keep God's commands. The Hebrew word "to look" at the fringes is the word "to see" (ra-ah). It then says we are not to use our eyes for lust. It is a Hebrew word play in two ways. First, we are to see the fringes to remind us to keep God's commandments and also, so our eyes won't cause us to sin. Also, the sin of the 10 spies is in this portion. Perhaps we could say that we are to spy on keeping God's commandments and do not to spy on sinful ways. Be careful how you "spy" things. In the present it is appropriate to wear tzitzit at times to keep the command to wear tzitzit.

We also now have the Holy Spirit to help remind us to keep God's commands. We are commanded to receive the Holy Spirit through the Messiah Yeshua (see Acts 2:38-39), and we are to be clothed with the Holy Spirit the Bible says. Luke 24:49 NKJV, "I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." The word endued is the word to be clothed. Just as we are to wear tzitzit to remind us to keep God's commandments, we are to be clothed with the helper, Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is another helper. 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." The Messiah gave us the commandments at Mount Sinai and during their time in the desert and the Holy Spirit in this temporary Messianic age before the age to come. Do not reject what He has given us. Also, Shaul tells us that those who follow a sinful life will not be in God's future kingdom. He says, "Do not be deceived." (See 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21). Be thankful to God that He has been so gracious to us.

The Haftarah for Shelach Lekha is Joshua 2:1-24. Joshua sends in two spies to check out Jericho. Rahab hides the spies and tells them that their God is the true God and asks them to spare her family. In contrast to the spies that gave the negative report, the spies reported to Joshua that the Lord will deliver the land into Israel's hands. Israel goes on to succeed. Archeologists have found the ruins and conquest of Jericho for an earlier time period than what was originally thought. When we apply a more recent understanding, it was actually around 1447 BC that Israel left Egypt; the conquest of Jericho and other conquests found in Canaan then fall right into place with this recent find. Then, both the timing and archeology then line up for the time period Israel would have actually entered Canaan. Because people are stuck in old thought, many don't see the how archeology proves Israel entered and conquered Canaan. Perhaps they just don't want it to fit together because they don't want to actually believe in God and be held accountable to God. Sometimes, people get stuck in beliefs that were passed down to them, and they will not accept the truth.

We should be a people who care about the things of God and want to be accountable to the God of the universe.

Joshua 1:7-8 NKJV says,

Only 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.**

He cares for us so move forward and be strong in our God and King. God's law will help us to have a more abundant life.

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.)

When Israel comes into the land, they were to set aside a portion of bread as a gift to Yĕhōvâh. Numbers 15:18-21.

Believers are to wear fringes with a blue thread on the corners of their garments as a remembrance to keep God's commandments. It is a remembrance ceremony. Numbers 15:38-39. The Holy Spirit from the Messiah Yeshua helps us in life and also reminds us to keep God's commandments. Just like we can wear tzitzit to remember to keep God's commandments, we are to clothe ourselves with the Holy Spirit. Luke 24:49 NKJV says, "I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." The word "endued" is the word clothed. The Holy Spirit is another helper for life, the first are God's commandments (see John 14:15-17).

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, Yĕhōvâh. Yĕhōvâh 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, Yĕhōvâh 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, Yĕhōvâh. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yĕhōvâh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah which means to exist. Yĕhōvâh 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 Yĕhōvāh. I have seen God's name pointed as Yĕhōvāh 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 Yĕhōvāh (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, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
 יְאָר יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yĕhōvāh bless you and keep you.

Yĕhōvāh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yĕhōvāh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.