



#42-#43 Mattot-Massei Numbers 30:2-36:13

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

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

Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Mishkan – tent of meeting in the desert

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah

Today is a double portion, Mattot and Massei. We have a few double portions because there are 54 portions during the year. There are also portions that are dedicated to the holidays (God's feasts). How we cover the Torah can be subjective; the important thing is that we cover the basics (of the Torah) every year because God instituted the weekly readings through the prophets. A reading schedule helps with that. We talk about the Torah (which refers to God's instructions for life) in our teachings because the Torah says that God's commandments give us understanding and wisdom (see Deuteronomy 4:5-6).

Also, because the sent ones of God (called apostles in the New Testament portion) helped keep the believers in line with God's truths, these Old Testament apostles and prophets kept the faith in the true God going. People like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Moshe were some of the Old Testament sent ones, namely apostles. Yeshua the Messiah is that prophet like Moshe that was to come (see Deuteronomy 18:18-19) and is the cornerstone of all the prophets because He is the Messiah. Yeshua taught us to keep God's Old Testament commandments so His followers must also do what He taught us to do. Someone who does not teach us to keep God's Old Testament commandments is a false prophet.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 NKJV says,

If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

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based on what He taught. Many Jewish rabbis though have still not accepted Yeshua as the Messiah, but some have.

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Some People think they are doing okay spiritually but sometimes that is not true. Deuteronomy 29:19-20 NKJV says, "He blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart' – as though the drunkard could be included with the sober. The LORD would not spare him; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man." There are some who think it is okay to do whatever they want as long as they believe in God.

James 2:18-20 NKJV says,

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead.

It says the devil spirits believe in God so what separates us from the devil spirits who believe? We demonstrate our faith by keeping God's commandments from both the Old Testament and New Testaments portions. Devil spirits are going to the lake of fire for all eternity (see Revelation 20:10). Those who do not keep God's commandments do not believe in God. Ya'akov said in James that our faith is demonstrated by works, by keeping God's commandments. Yochanan said that it is a sin to not keep the law. 1 John 3:4 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." The word for Torah (the first five books of the Bible which contain God's commandments) that was used by the ancient Rabbis in the Greek Septuagint was *nomia*. *Anomia* in the Greek means **to not** keep God's Old Testament commandments. *Anomia* is the Greek word translated lawlessness there in 1 John. Therefore it is a sin to not keep God's Old Testament commandments and not listening to God and following how He tells us to live is not believing in God.

Let's take for instance that we know someone who is very well respected for His advice. Chances are that we will listen to what they have to say because their advice will help us to avoid problems in a situation or in life. Not following God's good commandments is not respecting God for who He is and therefore is not believing in Him.

Faith without keeping God's Old Testament commandments is living in dead works and living in sin results in the loss of eternal life. Shaul explains this in Romans. Romans 6:20-23 NKJV says, "For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you

have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death." If you live a holy life by keeping God's commandments, then you will have everlasting life in God's future eternal kingdom. Those who live in sin are not righteous. They do not do what is right. Those who keep God's commandments are righteous. The wages of living life with the dead works of sin is spiritual death for eternity.

God Reaches out to the world over and over. We talked about this last week and it seems God wants us to talk about this again. God has reached out to mankind over all the ages. God has given us His truths. How we view things is important. If we want truth, we must be willing to accept what the Bible teaches and understand it properly in its correct context, from a biblical perspective. Sometimes this is understood as from the perspective of the ancient believers before Israel existed who believed in the true God and sometimes this from a Jewish perspective. We talk about this frequently because people do not realize that God never left mankind to work out the best way to live on its own. Mankind always had God's commandments to help them in life if they so choose to live right. God gave mankind good advice for life; they are not just rules that are imposed on us.

For example, Noah walked with God. To walk with God is one of the common ways the Bible refers to keeping God's commandments. Deuteronomy 13:4 NKJV says, "**You shall walk** after the LORD your God and fear Him, and **keep His commandments** and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him." Here is another verse. 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 have the opportunity to walk in God's good ways and keep His commandments. Notice it says that **we are a holy people if** we keep God's commandments. Those who do not keep God's commandments will fall short of the grace given through the Messiah Yeshua. 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."

The ancient Israelites were given God's good commandments for a good life which were written down for mankind by Moshe. The Bible should be understood as the words given to us by a good God. Some believe these God given commandments are only for the Jews and that is not true. They are for true believers for all of time. They were passed on verbally by good people like Noah and Abraham (see Genesis 26:5).

Also, I have heard people say the Bible does not have anything to do with being Jewish. How ridiculous. Many of the ancient Israelites and Jews were believers in the true God. Yeshua (Jesus) was the Messiah to the whole world and was Jewish. All the writers of the Bible were in fact Jewish. Luke's Jewish name at the top of his Hebrew gospel of Luke is Lukah. The Hebrew gospels were first put together around 150 AD and called the Itala text. So, the truths for life were passed on to us from the ancient Gentile believers, and then to a Jewish society. The scriptures often must be understood within a Jewish context. They are truths that can be applied by anyone in the world, and it was God's intention that the world would see the benefits

of God's commandments that Israel passed on to future generations. This is an important scripture in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 4:6-8 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." For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law.

People can lead us in ways that do not result in a good life; they lead us to a life which has no basis. Is there a basis for violence and murder instead of cool heads that try to work out solutions? Do we want anarchy and destruction that results in subservience? What do people think anarchy turns into? That is what they saw happen in Russia back in the early 1900s and it resulted in oppression and murder, and a communist leftist religious system of control and dictatorship; they went from one system of control to another. Their communist leftist religious system was much worse than the monarchy they had. It is said that the Russian atheist dictator Stalin had some 20 million people murdered. That was the result of their anarchy and unrest from their Communist leftist religion. It is not a biblically based religion. No true believer should believe in the Communist leftist religion, neither Jew nor Christian.

What is wrong with doing things God's way? 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." God's Torah in the Old Testament portion (Torah means instruction) is like an endless supply of good refreshing water and can give us a good life. Mankind though creates their own ideas (cisterns) that can only give us a limited supply of water, but they are broken ideas (broken cisterns) that leave us nothing in the end.

The first step towards a holy godly life (see Deuteronomy 28:9) is to learn and keep God's commandments from the Old Testament portion. We also need to understand that God has good intentions for us so He gave us His good commandments to provide for us. God has provided for mankind in every area of life since the inception of time. We shared this recently, but it is an important concept to understand.

**The concept of God's provision for mankind
is important to understand.**

God created the world and all that is to provide us with a way to sustain ourselves.

God created us in His likeness with many special abilities.

God gave mankind His commandments from the inception of time. God did not leave mankind to figure out things on our own. He provided all we needed to sustain our life, He gave us the ability to use what He gave us to sustain life, and He gave us instructions in the form of commandments so we would know how best to live.

God gave us instructions for life through the Old Testament commandments, and His commandments are intended to help us. God created all and He knows the best way for us to live. The New Testament portion contains some applications of the Old Testament commandments that can be useful and some additional information to help us know how to live in this Messianic era.

God also gave us the Holy Spirit in this Messianic era to help us and inform us.

(Some time in the future I hope to put together my expanded version of this concept.)

Some make God into a God who wants to indulge us. God wants what is best for us. That is not the same thing. Parents often protect their children from harm by not indulging their every whim. God gives us His commandments for our good. This is an important scripture to know and understand. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NKJV says, "Fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today **for your good.**" God did not give us His commandments to weigh us down in life but for our good.

Stay faithful to God but do it with joy. It is a commandment to have joy in life. Deuteronomy 28:47 NKJV says, "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you."

The list of curses for not keeping God's commandments is a lot longer than the blessings for keeping God's commandments. This scripture seems to follow that pattern. Why do you think that is? It is probably because God wants to bless us and does not want us to sin or fail in life. There is good reason to follow God's commandments with joy.

**Our mindset helps us to get through life, live life well,
and be happy and contented. We need to control our thinking!**

Resist thinking wrong thoughts or the suggestions of the devil. Remember how the devil deceived Eve through the serpent in Genesis 3. It is a story that teaches us how the devil works. He told Eve that she would be like God. That is the same lie the devil used at the time of his fall (see Isaiah 14:12). Do not be talked into not following God's good Old Testament commandments. Remember, people who tell us not to keep God's Old Testament commandments are false teachers. James 4:7-8 NKJV says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

Stay focused on the truths that you know. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NKJV says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." What is the conclusion? The Bible says that keeping God's Old Testament commandments is the conclusion of the matter.

In the book of Joshua, Joshua is told to be strong and courageous. In what way is he to be strong and courageous? He is to keep God's law, God's Old Testament commandments.

Joshua 1:7-9

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. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

It says in Joshua that God's commandments will prosper us, give us success, and that God will be with us. So, be strong. Shaul said that God's Old Testament commandments still stand, they are established. Do not believe those who say otherwise. Romans 3:31 NKJV says, 'Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.'

Does anyone read the Bible?

What does it say in Joshua? People search for satisfaction in life and they will do all they can to succeed in life. I think we have found the answer to life and it is through God and His good ways, His commandments in the both the Old and New Testament portions.

Finally.

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Some make God into a God who wants to indulge us. God wants what is best for us. That is not the same thing as indulging us. Parents often protect their children from harm by not indulging their every whim. Stay focused on the truths that you know because God has our best interests at heart. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NKJV says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. for God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." God must judge mankind, because He is a just God, He must not leave evil unpunished. But God will also reward those who do what is good, those who believe in Him and keep His good commandments.

Those who live in sin will be judged for their sin.

Hebrews 10:29-31 NKJV says,

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.

Those who are wise will keep God's Old Testament commandments.

Deuteronomy 4:6 tells us that God's commandments are His good wisdom for mankind. Be wise and do what is right (in other words be righteous) so that you will be in God's future wonderful kingdom. Daniel 12:3 NKJV says, "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." Those who do what God teaches us to do and do what is right (namely, those who are righteous) will rise from the dead and be in God's future kingdom.

Torah Teaching.

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Mattot means, "tribes." This Torah portion begins by talking about the keeping of vows. Vows were to be kept, but the man of the house could annul the vow. Widows were responsible for their vows. This implies that men are responsible for the spiritual direction of the house. Of course, women are also responsible as well. My mom taught me from the Torah as a young boy, so I learned some of the basic principles for life at a young age.

The vows being talked about are about vows to God, but legal agreements are also binding. Promises should be kept, but they are not binding. Sometimes something might come up. We should always try to be a people of our word. Decisions and plans are the same; they may need to be changed sometimes; we should try to follow through with our schedule and intentions and be courteous to others. Vows to God are binding but sometimes cannot be kept because of extenuating circumstances; for example, someone who abuses their spouse. Yeshua used adultery as one of the reasons for divorce; He was addressing a specific situation in His time where men were making frivolous excuses to divorce their wives in order to commit adultery. Yeshua was not addressing all situations.

We should also conclude that those who use frivolous things to be unforgiving and break off relationships are also doing what is wrong. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." We are not to hold onto grudges and take vengeance but love others like we want to be treated, and the most important way to do that is to keep God's commandments. Adult children who do not respect their parents and who cut off their relationship with their parents sin. If they do not get along well, and if the parents are good people, there is no reason to not have some friendly contact. Of course, there are some parents who are incorrigible.

Breaking a vow to God is sin and we must ask for forgiveness. In Yeshua's time, people were making frequent vows. They thought that they could swear by the Temple or other things and that gave them an out to not fulfill their vow. Yeshua said not to swear falsely in the Hebrew manuscripts of Matthew. The Greek manuscripts are missing the word falsely. Because of the missing word in the Greek manuscripts,¹ we have people acting inordinately scrupulous. Yeshua said it is important to be a people of our word and to lead people to do what is right. Matthew 12:35-37 NKJV says, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your

¹ The Hebrew manuscripts were put together in around 150 AD and are a valuable resource for understanding the Bible.

words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." The content implies that we are to lead people to do what is right. Also, the intents of our heart should be to do what is right (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18).

We must keep God's commandments. If we sin, we can ask God for forgiveness, and we are forgiven. We must be truly sorry and determined not to do it again (see 1 John 1:9). Kefa (Peter) said that false teachers who teach people not to obey God's commandments will go to the lake of fire (see 2 Peter 2:4-11). There was no New Testament at the time; the early believers followed the Old Testament. Shaul (Paul) said the Old Testament commands have not been done away with. Romans 3:31 NKJV says, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Shaul was addressing the issue of just keeping commands and man-made ritual without faith in God in the context. That was the context of his teaching. It was a problem back then and it is wrong practice; we are not on good terms with God by just doing commands and rituals without faith in God.

No one will have an excuse when they stand before God. They will stand before the *Bema*; that is the Greek word used for where Yeshua will judge from (see 2 Corinthians 5:10). The Greek word "*bema*" is where the Torah is read from in Jewish synagogues. People who teach others that sin is okay will go to the lake of fire. 1 John 3:4 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." Not keeping the law is sin. I am not talking about keeping man-made commands; people sometimes end up following ritual and custom instead of God's commandments. Some Old Testament commands also have other practical applications, and they are valid applications of the Torah. That is how we got 1,050 commands in the New Testament portion. God does not want anyone to go to the lake of fire, but He is a just God (see 2 Peter 3:9). I genuinely care about you, and I do not want you to go to the lake of fire either.

The portion goes on, and Israel attacks and defeats the Midianites because the Midianites had caused the sin of Baal-Peor where some of the Israelites were enticed into pagan practice by the Midianites. Their intentions were to destroy Israel's relationship with God. Beware of those who want to steal or mess up your spiritual relationship with God. By getting you to conform to their false ideas, they believe you are joining their ranks. Getting rid of the pagans was to protect Israel's relationship with God. In the New Testament portion, we see sinful believers having to leave the believing community until they repented. This also helps to keep the believing community from the enticement of those who live in sin.

Israel cleansed and divided the booty and any Midianite woman who had sexual relations previously was to be killed. The false prophet Balaam was also killed. The tribe of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh asked to have the land east of the Jordan, but they would continue to fight until the land west of the Jordan was conquered.

Israel did not start any of its wars up to this point, but they were drawn in by people who plotted against them. The tribes of Israel that settled east of the Jordan perhaps were never supposed to be there, but that is what they chose just as Lot chose to look to the east and ended up living with the ungodly people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Was there really not enough room for both Abraham and Lot to live peaceably?

The northern tribes did not expel all the Canaanites; this is perhaps the result of some of the tribes living east of the Jordan. Perhaps the northern tribes ended up worshipping idols as least in part because not all the Canaanites had been conquered. Consequently, the northern tribes became sinful and because of that they were conquered and dispersed. Also, the tribes who chose to live east of the Jordan were the first tribes conquered. This portion shows us that we should be careful what we choose. Although we can be chosen by God, what we choose might not be what is best for us. Instead, seek what God wants for us. They were supposed to enter the land of Canaan.

Moshe will die after the Midianites are defeated. He led Israel a long time. His legacy helped the people to have a relationship with the true God. There are good leaders and bad leaders. Moshe led people to our good and loving God who cares about mankind. His legacy influenced the entire world. Like Moshe, Yeshua the Messiah gave the world a legacy that has continued for thousands of years as well. Yeshua taught us to keep God's good Old Testament commandments.

The portion Massei is Numbers 33:1-36:13. Massei (Mas-ay) means, "journeys." It is the last Torah portion in Numbers. This Torah portion begins by talking about the journeys of Israel. The event at Mount Sinai is not mentioned. Perhaps their struggles are mentioned as a lesson so the people would not repeat their mistakes. God's commandments are not a struggle but bring good. We should have joy that we have God's good commandments.

Moshe told Israel that when they crossed over the Jordan that they were to take over the land, get rid of the people who lived there and their idols, and divide the land to the tribes by lot. They were warned if they did not get rid of the idolatrous people in the promised land that the people there would harass Israel – they would be thorns and stings. To this day, Israel is harassed by its pagan neighbors.

The boundaries of Israel were given and also the leaders for the tribes. They were to divide the land by lot. Israel was to give the Levites 48 towns and 6 were to be cities where someone who killed a person by accident could seek refuge and their case heard. Many of the original laws in the United States came from the Bible; we assume people innocent until they are proven guilty in the United States. Murderers were to be put to death, but there had to be more than one witness to a crime. This commandment helps prevent murder. Deuteronomy 19:13 NKJV says, "Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with you." Those who oppose capital punishment are opposing good justice. The Bible says we are to protect life and in opposing just punishment, they are encouraging murder. A weak justice system is an evil to society.

Women who inherited land were to marry inside their own tribe. They updated the Torah to address a situation. It is God that made the update. People are not to add to God's commandments. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." The Sanhedrin made a lot of unnecessary laws and acted like despotic kings at times (see Gamaliel II on Wiki). They even contradicted God's commandments at times. 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." We are to follow God's commandments.

God made provision for Bible teachers to live throughout Israel, so they had Torah teaching in the synagogues on Shabbat. In the time of Yeshua, new believers in Yeshua were to learn the Torah and God's Old Testament commandments. In Acts 15: 20-21 NKJV it says, referring to the Gentiles following the Old Testament, "But that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." God's true teachers teach people to follow the Torah. Do not go to the lake of fire with false teachers who deny God's Old Testament commandments (2 Peter 2:4-11).

**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.)**

Keeping vows. Numbers 30:3-5

Or if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by some agreement while in her father's house in her youth, 4 and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father holds his peace, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself shall stand. 5 But if her father overrules her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will release her, because her father overruled her.

Giving Levites cities to live in and for refuge for unintentional murder. Numbers 35:2-7.

A person is to stand trial for murder. There must be two witnesses for a death sentence. No ransom can be given for a murderer. Numbers 35:12, 30-32.

An unintentional murderer is to go to a city of refuge. Numbers 35:25.

We have finished the book of Numbers and we say:

Hazak, hazak, ve-nithazek,
Hazak, hazak, ve-nithazek,
Hazak, hazak, ve-nithazek.

Be strong, be strong and may we be strengthened,
Be strong, be strong and may we be strengthened,
Be strong, be strong and may we be strengthened.

The Aaronic Blessing.

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. 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, וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ
יְאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיַחַנֶּךָ
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיִשָּׂם 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.