



**Ki Teitzei 2020, Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19
 And Teaching: Hold onto God
 By Moshe Schwab**

<p><u>Names</u> Kefa – Peter Moshe – Moses Shaul – Paul Yeshua – Jesus (in Hebrew it means "Salvation") Yĕhōváh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15) Yochanan – John</p>	<p><u>Terms</u> Haftarah – the weekly reading from the prophets Parashah – (portion) one of 54 portions of the Torah Shabbat – the 7th day of the week; we are to rest Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible</p>
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The Torah portion for this week is Ki Teitzei and it means, "when you go." We teach the Torah portions because it was instituted by God's holy prophets, perhaps Nehemiah. Yeshua would have taught from the portions and that is what He was doing in Luke 4:21. We also have a teaching following the Torah study.

This week someone sent me a teaching on us being a chosen people and priests (1 Peter 2:9-10); it was about the power we have. It says in Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV, "You shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." What did it mean to the early believers back then? They were to be special and serve God and help others to be close to God. They were to be different than those who did not believe and live how God told them to live. This scripture is not about our power, but being open and humble towards God.

Someone made a good point during our meeting. They said intentions are important. Are we open to God's loving commandments or are we doing things our own way and rejecting God. Yeshua took this very seriously. He uses an exaggeration to make His point. The command to wear something between your eyes (phylactery) in the Shema is an exaggeration that wasn't practiced until the time of Yeshua. Wearing something between your eyes would probably cause eye problems. It was never supposed to be taken literally.

Yeshua said in Matthew 5:29-30, "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell." This sounds outlandish and harsh; that's the point. Take your relationship with God seriously and make every effort to do what is right. Psalms 2:11 NKJV says, "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling."

Some say we are saved and are just to have joy. What does salvation mean? Just as Israel was

set free from pagan Egypt (and their sin) so they could serve God, Yeshua came to set us free from sin so we could serve God. Matthew 1:21 CJB says, "You are to name him Yeshua, [which means 'ADONAI saves,'] because he will save his people from their sin."

The Messiah Yeshua came to help us not sin. **"Sin is lawlessness;" 1 John 3:4.** Some say the law is done away with; they are going to be in for a big surprise at judgement time. Yeshua said, "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Matthew 7:22-23 NKJV. It's plain, those who say the law is done away **are liars** and will go to the lake of fire. Don't go there with them. 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."

Being connected to God protects us from worldly things in many ways. In every area of life we need to apply what God says instead of philosophy or man-made doctrine. Take salvation for example. Some people say that we are to only believe in Yeshua. If you believe in Him, you will trust in His commandments. He is God and He gave us the Torah and the Holy Spirit **to help us** live right. 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 first helper is the Torah and God gives us another helper, the Holy Spirit through the Messiah.

Believing in the Messiah requires corresponding 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? Was not Abraham our father justified by works;" James 2:19-21 NKJV. The people who say its not by works don't understand Jewish context. We are to keep God's commandments. Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says, "**Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments** always." We love God by keeping His commandments.

Sometimes one piece of life out of place can put pressures on life. Putting things in order can relieve the pressures of life. God wants us to have a life of Shalom, a blessed and peace filled life. Isaiah 26:3-4 says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever." Uncomplicate life by trusting in God and order your life. We follow a loving and good God.

God is the powerful source for life. We can rely so much on the world for satisfaction instead of God. For example, it can be a challenge how we use our down time. There is nothing wrong with enjoying things. Perhaps changing some of the things we do during this time of introspection before Yom Kippur can move us towards better ways to use our life and time.

We can be locked into patterns; break the patterns that weigh us down and keep us worldly minded. Shaul summarizes the Torah and encourages Timothy, "Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, **give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine;**" 1 Timothy 4:12-13. The Rabbis would often summarize main points instead of giving all the commandments. For example, the 'Torah expert' in Luke 10:25 CJB said love God and your neighbor. Timothy was to also read and teach the Torah. **They had**

regular readings for each week that they taught from. The Torah reading for this week is Ki Teitzei; the readings were established by God through the prophets and Shaul commands Timothy to teach from the readings.

There is a balance to life. Get done with the things we know that have to be done and then balance your time in other areas of your life. Always make time for prayer and the Torah. The Torah is God's word and was given to us to help us. Be at peace when we face pressure and do not conform to worldly values. And, watch out for man-made values and doctrines.

Torah Study

This Torah portion contains a lot of laws and begins with the law regarding a captive woman. If a soldier wants to make a captive woman his wife, he is to cut her hair and wait 30 days while she mourns. Like so many things in the Bible, the scriptures also teach us other things. The captive woman teaches us not to marry hastily and that women should not be alluring. Allowing mourning should teach us to be caring about others emotions. Lastly, the captive woman must agree to following the Torah; so, we should not marry someone who doesn't want to follow the Torah. Torah means instruction; namely, God's instruction. The word "yoke" in Jewish thought means the Torah. We should understand this when Shaul uses the word "yoked." In 2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV it says, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Watch out for people who say they believe in God, but don't live like they believe. The devils also believe the Bible says.

A firstborn son should receive his double portion of the inheritance even if his wife is unloved. A rebellious child was to appear before the judges at the gate and to be stoned. This refers to a grown person who is doing things that warrant stoning. The Talmud incorrectly applies this to a younger person. It goes on to say that a person that is hung for a crime should not be left overnight. That is why Yeshua was taken off the stake and buried before nightfall. They were obeying the Torah.

Yeshua did not die on a cross. He died on a stake and then rose from the dead on the third day. He died for our sins; Isaiah 53:6 NKJV says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Yeshua fulfilled what was written in Isaiah in the Bible; Isaiah was written some 600 years before He came.

The Greek word translated "cross" was mistranslated. The Greek word that is translated "cross" is always the word for a pointed stake (σταυρός – staw-ráhs). Also, it is wrong to pray to an object like a cross;¹ the Torah commands us to not to make anything to pray to. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them;" Exodus 20:4-5 NKJV.

This may seem strange to some of you that have been taught that it is okay to pray before

¹ It is true that objects not made to be prayed to are not idols, but the history of the cross symbol is pagan. We are not to do what the pagans do the Bible says. The Egyptian cross is an ankh (~3,000 BC). The cross was a pagan symbol in antiquity. Constantine worshiped the sun god Mithra. His vision of the sun and a pagan cross became associated with the religion of the Roman Empire which is completely devoid of the Jewish roots of the Bible. He made the day of the sun god, Sunday, the day of worship and the Roman Empire made God's feasts illegal. "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts." Leviticus 23:2 NKJV. Their version of Christianity is a false religion.

pictures, statues, candles, or wood crosses. Instead of using these objects to pray in front of, pray directly to God. Some believers have not been taught **not** to do this. We are not to bow down before any objects. For example, the people were praying before the brazen serpent that Moshe made to heal people so King Hezekiah had it destroyed (2 Kings 18:4). Isn't that great; you don't have to kneel down before any objects.

You can pray directly to God and that's what God wants you to do.

Praying before objects is idolatry. The Bible says no idolater will be in the future kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

They were to return each other's animals or keep them until they could return them. They were also to help each other's injured animals. Women were not to wear men's clothing and men were not to wear women's clothing. This practice is often associated with sinful sexual behaviors. We just read that these people will also not be in the future kingdom of God. There are also devil spirits that are associated with and promote these practices. Devil spirits influence and possess these people into engaging in these behaviors.

They could take the eggs of a mother bird, but not kill the mother bird. They were to build a wall around the roof so no one fell off. There are a lot of commands in this portion. For example, the command for a low wall on the roof can be reinterpreted to mean that we should provide protection such as railings, guardrails, and handrails. City ordinances in the United States often have these in their laws. Some of our laws resemble some of the commandments in the Bible. The rabbis in antiquity reinterpreted laws to provide justice in their society just as we do today. We have some 2 million laws in the United States now.

The some 1,050 commandments in the New Testament portion are interpretations of the Torah. There are only a couple hundred of applicable commands in the Old Testament portion, but they have been reinterpreted. The commandments in the New Testament portion are valid interpretations of the law. The rabbis though created many misapplied laws and added unneeded commands. For example, the Orthodox teach to put on the right shoe first. This is micromanaging (if you can even call it that); what does putting on your right shoe first have to do with God? Perhaps they think putting on the right shoe first gets them off on the "right foot."

Understanding how to apply the Old Testament portion properly is important because it is the basis for the New portion. Sometimes people's eyes will begin to glaze over when I share something from the Old portion because they were told not to pay attention, but it is the Old portion that is the roots of our faith. Where are these liars about the Old Testament going? It goes on to say that, they were not to sow different kinds of seed together. They were not to make clothing from both wool and linen. They were to make cords (tzitzit) for the corners of their garment. This command is still valid. There is nothing wrong with doing this and I will wear tzitzit at times to fulfill this commandment; often at congregation.

False accusations concerning virginity would be punished. If these accusations are true, then

the woman is to be stoned. Adulterers are to be stoned. Rape was to be punished by death. If a man raped a single woman, he must marry her. A man is not to take his father's wife. A man with disfigured genitals may not enter the area of Temple worship nor a bastard, or an Ammonite, or a Moabite. They were not to detest an Edomite or an Egyptian. During war, a man who had a nocturnal emission was to wash himself outside the camp, they were to use a latrine, bury their excrement, not see anything indecent in the camp, and give refuge to a slave.

There was to be no male or female prostitution; what is earned by prostitution is detestable to God. There are people who say prostitution is okay since it is not mentioned in the New Testament portion. They just don't understand the Bible; they are wrong. They were not to charge interest to the Israelites, but to outsiders they could. They must perform their vows and they don't have to take vows. They could eat in their neighbors' field, but not harvest it. A man was not to remarry their former wife after divorce. A newly married man should not serve in the army.

*All the commandments of God are important for those
who want to trust God and want a relationship with God.*

They were not to take a person's tools that they use for business as collateral. Kidnappers were to be stoned. They were to be careful to observe the laws regarding skin outbreaks. They were not to enter someone's house and take collateral. They were to return the collateral of a poor person before nightfall. They were not to exploit their workers and they were to pay them.

This portion teaches us that we are to return each other's property. Sexual crimes were punishable by death; the Bible considers them serious offenses. They were to not to exploit the needy or foreigners. They were not to take a person's tools he used to provide for his family. They were to have honest weights and measures. Just removing honest weights and measures as a commandment would put our society into turmoil. All the commandments of God are important for those who want to trust God and want a relationship with God.

Fathers are not to be executed for the child's sins and vice versa. They were not to deprive a foreigner or orphan of justice. They were to leave anything they forgot to harvest for the foreigner, orphan, or widow. They were to settle disputes in court and the wrongdoer punished with not more than 40 lashes. They were not to muzzle an ox that treads the grain (Deuteronomy 25:4). Shaul uses Deuteronomy 25:4 in 1 Timothy 5:18 to interpret that spiritual leadership should be supported. Many New Testament "churches" teach that the Old Testament portion is no longer relevant. Since Shaul uses it over and over to support what he is teaching, that can't be true.

A man should marry the widow of his brother and if he doesn't, he will be humiliated; her first born will inherit her dead husband's inheritance. A woman that's grabs a man's genitals during a fight; her hand is to be cut off. They were to have correct and fair weights. They were to blot out the name of Amalek. Bible scribes will write the name of Amalek, scratch it out and scrape off the ink to fulfill this command. Yeshua said, "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life;" Revelation 3:5 NKJV. Stay strong so Yeshua doesn't blot out your name from the Book of Life (refers to eternal life).

The Haftarah for Ki Teitzei is In Isaiah 54. It says have joy barren woman you will have children.

You will have many descendants. Your husband is God and your redeemer. I am taking you back with grace and God's covenant of peace will not be removed.

Isaiah 54:10 NKJV says about Israel, "For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed." We must remember that scriptures that refer to Israel still refer to Israel. We know that Isaiah 53 is about the Messiah. Isaiah 54 is about Israel. We have to be careful not to reinterpret things meant for Israel. This is a common mistake among some who read the Bible. They are misapplying the scriptures. God is not done with Israel as some say.

For Further Study

Hold onto God

(A practical teaching to accompany the Torah teaching, Ki Teitzei)

While Praying:

- * Work at directing your life to God. Bring the power of God into your life. (God can work in us like nothing else can).
- * Strive toward a godly life by being consistent; don't overdo it.
- * Call attention to those areas in life that we need to change.
- * Hold on firmly to God; be satisfied and at peace in that.

In this portion of the Torah we see a lot of commandments. We follow God's commandments because He is the creator God and knows what is best for us. There are some commands that may not make much sense to us, but God knows why we should keep them. Even if we don't understand a commandment, we should just trust in God. Why not trust in the creator?

Work at directing your life to God. When you keep God's commands, it will prolong your life, and give you peace in life. Proverbs 3:1-4 NKJV says, "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man." God's word is truth; who wouldn't want truth for life?

Years ago, I was watching someone describe his 300-page book on TV. He was talking about how to have peace in life. I thought, "The Bible tells us how to have peace and it doesn't cost anything." It says that God's ways can not only give you peace, but extend your life. There was a study done on people who followed God; they determined that the people following God and doing what is right actually had better DNA than others. I find that remarkable!

By keeping God's commands, we are bringing the power of God into our lives. I was talking to someone this week and they were saying that God's word is helping them to think better and even delivering them from some mental oppression. I know of some that have struggled with these issues and they are truly suffering. Wow! God can work in us like nothing else can.

It says in Isaiah 45:8 NKJV, "And let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. I, the LORD, have created it." The word "salvation" in this verse is the word deliverance.² That's what God's words in the Bible can do for us; they can bring us deliverance; they are powerful. I have been blessed by God's words; they have helped me to have a better life; we need His word! They are true and powerful.

*"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind
is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."
Isaiah 26:3 NKJV*

It's one thing to have peace, but perfect peace must be amazing. That is something we all want. Isaiah 26:3 is one of my favorite verses because of that. The words in the Bible don't give you peace by themselves. It says in Isaiah 26:3 that we must trust in God and His word if we desire that peace. We trust in God by growing spiritually, studying the scriptures, keeping God's commandments, and having faith in God.

Strive toward a godly life by being consistent. We learn and apply the scriptures over and over. Being consistent produces results. Psalms 1:2-3 says, "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." The Bible says that when we apply God's commandments to life, day and night, we will get results; that's what fruit means.

Imagine living in a dry climate and being a tree that is thriving year-round because it is planted near water. When we consistently apply God's commandments day and night, we will get results, fruit. Fruit is the end result and yield of the tree. There are reasonable applications of this. As we learn to do God's commandments, we apply reasonable ways that help us to keep God's commandments. We understand that these "helps" that we apply are not commandments, but things that help us to keep God's commandments.

For example, when we begin to do something that we shouldn't do on Shabbat, we stop. We don't make up an extra commandment in order to keep Shabbat. Or perhaps there is some ritual that we do. I pray to do what is right and good every morning and that helps me to set the stage for my day. Then as the day goes on, I think about doing what is right. The Bible says that making extra commandments is wrong.

Perhaps there are areas we need to change in our life. Perhaps we have trouble with the words we speak. Yeshua said we will be held accountable for our words. Do our words communicate scriptural values? Do our words help others or tear them down? Yeshua said in Matthew 12:36 NKJV, "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."

Is it okay to have fun? Of course, but when you have fun, don't do it in a crude or vulgar way. A friend of mine liked the Three Stooges and had a Three Stooges watch. They were comedians who did silly antics. One time my friend was on an elevator and a person from out of the country was on with him and asked about his and watch and said, "family?"

²h3468. עֲשׂוּׁהָׁ; from 3467; liberty, deliverance, prosperity" – [Strong's Enhanced Dictionary](#)

Perhaps we have trouble with humility. I'm not saying we are to accept being humiliated. If we do something that is wrong, own up to it. We are not to be too proud to work on our faults. Proverbs 16:5 NKJV says, "Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD." Abomination means disgusting. If we are too proud to listen to others, if we are always looking at others faults instead of taking care of our own faults, then we are disgusting to God. That's what it says. We have enough to do to work our own life let alone taking on everyone else. Micah 6:8 NKJV says, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Call attention to those areas in life that we need to change and work on them.

Hold on firmly to God; be satisfied and at peace in that. Remember the tree planted by waters that brings its fruit; it is like someone who keeps God's commands. If you trust in God and allow His word and His Holy Spirit to guide you, you will be satisfied in life. You will never be wanting because you are more satisfied with the things of God than the things of this world. Isaiah 58:11 NKJV says, "The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail." You will be satisfied in life by following God and His Messiah Yeshua.

Psalms 103:1-5 NKJV:
Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Being satisfied in life is perhaps half the battle of life; it's important. God has helped me; He has healed me at times; He is truly a kind and good God; I am satisfied following God.

This portion contains a lot of important miscellaneous laws. Some of the laws are used in our own culture. God is the creator and knows what's best for us. Work at directing your life towards God. It will give you peace and even make your life longer; perhaps by even changing and protecting your DNA. Be consistent in developing a godly life. Work at areas in your life that need attention. Be humble and willing to accept correction and grow spiritually. Hold on firmly to God and trust in Him.