



**#34 Bamidbar Numbers 1:1-4:20  
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

The Torah portion for this week is Bamidbar and means, "In the wilderness." We now begin our study on the book of Numbers. The accounts begin on the first day of the second month (Iyar) which often coincides with the Gregorian month of May.

Numbers Chapter 9 says it is now the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month. So, was this misplaced as some say or were the first 8 chapters more instructions, and in Chapter 9, it begins with the inclusion of some important stories that we can learn from. In Numbers 9:5 they kept the Passover, so perhaps we can learn from that they kept God's feasts.

Also, they kept the command to break camp and go to the place where the cloud settled while they were in the desert. It is a different Hebrew word in verse 19 which can mean to keep or guard. Numbers 9:17 NKJV says, "Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents." It says they were faithful to do this. Numbers 9:19 NKJV says, "Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel **kept** [guarded] the charge of the LORD." So, **every day**, they had to look and see if they were to leave or remain. So, it would seem for the most part, they were faithful to do what God told them to do with fewer exceptions than some think.

Since Numbers begins in the second year in the desert, it contains some of the stories about Israel for roughly 39 years. Exodus then is about the first year in the desert. Deuteronomy occurs as the end of the 40th year. Numbers is not strictly a book of numbers as some think. Their second year in the desert reveals they were intent on keeping what God told them to do. In Numbers, there is a census, the camp is setup with the Levites surrounding the Mishkan (The Tabernacle). and their duties explained. The Nazarite vow is explained, God confirms Aaron as High Priest, Balaam is not allowed to curse Israel, more instructions, the borders of Israel are

given, and cities of refuge are explained. Numbers also teaches us a few stories of those who succeeded and of those who failed so we do not make the same mistakes.

The census' given in the Torah reveals to us that there were some 600,000 men who left Egypt. If we count women and children, that adds up to a possible 2 or 3 million who left Egypt. Some would have you believe that all of Israel failed, but as we can see, that is not true. It was only a minority. In the end, some 2 to 3 million people entered the land of Canaan. That is a lot of people who pulled together and made it.

The same is true today. Some believers are genuine believers who desire to keep God's commandments and do what is right. There are some though who make up excuses to not follow God's commandments, and they will not make it into the future kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV says,

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Shaul is repeating himself. He already told them before and is warning them again. He must have considered this important. That is why we need to share this frequently. For the person who wants to be a true believer in God, they will do everything they can to follow what God tells them. True believers want the truths of the scriptures, they want to follow God's commandments, they are willing to continue to grow spiritually and change, they are willing to take the time to pray, to be kind, to treat others with respect, and they love God.

Also, what Shaul said should help us to understand that Yeshua taught that we are to keep the law. Shaul gives us representative lists of God's commandments. Jewish lists were not intended to be complete lists. There are more than 10 commandments so a short list of some of the things that he wanted to highlight are given in Galatians. Shaul gives us a different list in 1 Corinthians. For example, in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV it says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? 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 are short lists which contain some of the more grievous sins.

Yeshua taught us that we are to keep the law. Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Yeshua will reject those who do not keep the Old Testament law. All the writers of the New Testament told us to keep the Old Testament commandments. Shaul said the law is not done away with but is established. Romans 3:31 NKJV says, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

Yochanan said that it is a sin not to keep the law. 1 John 3:4 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." It says in the Hebrew manuscript of James 2:12, "So, speak and so do like those prepared to be judged by the Torah of the Examiner!" From The Epistle of James (a translation from the Hebrew) by Doctor Miles Jones, page 28. The

Torah is the first 5 books of the Bible. Liberty was added to the Greek text and is not in the Hebrew. That one word dramatically alters what it says in the Epistle.

We know that the Greek scriptures got changed by heretics. For example, in Jerome's introduction to the Latin Vulgate written in about 382 AD Jerome said, "Why not go back to the original Greek and correct the mistakes introduced by inaccurate translators, and the blundering alterations of confident but ignorant critics, and, further, all that has been inserted or changed by copyists more asleep than awake?" When it seems to say in our Bibles that the law has been done away with, we know that it was probably due to the alteration and insertions made by those who did not believe in God properly. This first part of our introduction is repeated in the Torah study for today.

We need to learn self-control and have right thinking. It is not correct to think that just anything we think up is correct or true. That includes some of the ridiculous ideas that people come up with. I know someone who likes to come up with ideas and post them just to get peoples' reactions. If you believed in something he wrote, you would be believing in something that even he did not believe in. Some people like to mess around with people. I remember years ago that they were selling pet rocks in stores. I am not kidding. It sounds ridiculous doesn't it, yet some people thought it was a fun idea. So, do not get tricked into accepting nonsense. Nonsense is nonsense.

Do not follow your heart. For example, some people will come up with what they think would be good for society. This one supposed really smart guy thought that those who cannot contribute to society should be eliminated. There are people who worked all their lives to help others and because they are old and cannot help others now should they be put to death? That is what Hitler believed, and his ideas got extended to anyone who opposed him and the society he headed murdered 11 million of his own people. Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV says, "The heart is deceitful above all things." Do not follow good intentions, do not follow your heart, follow how God says to live.

People need God's wisdom for how to live life. Proverbs 2:6 NKJV says, "For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV says about God,  
 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Entertaining spurious ideas of no consequence can make a person sound like a total idiot. And unfortunately, people often will maintain their wrong thinking no matter how you try to reason with them. Sometimes good intentions can be totally wrong. For example, some will say, "Let's share the wealth so everyone has what they need." In order to do that, a certain group of people need to enforce that. And because people can often be greedy, those in control will get all they need at the expense of everyone else. That is what has happened in Communist nations. They then murder all those who do not like their ideas. Over 100 million people were murdered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by atheist or communist regimes.

Most of all, we need to continue to do what the Bible says. Do not let concepts or ideals cause you to not follow what the Bible says. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes."

God gave us His word to help us in the ups and downs of life.

There will be ups and downs in life. Psalms 46:1 NKJV says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Sometimes we face some very difficult circumstances in life. God can help us to get through some of most troubling of circumstances. This one person confided in me that he hasn't been able to get over the loss of their baby. I have dear friends of mine who lost their son over 10 years ago, but they still struggle with their loss. They remain faithful to God. Someone once told me that if you haven't experienced troubles in life, you eventually will.

We need to be ready to continue on in faith towards God in life. Isaiah 41:10 NKJV says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isn't it great to know that God can help us get through difficult times. If you are having troubles, ask God to help you, and then decide that you are not going to let your troubles overcome you. Yeshua said in Revelation 2:10 NKJV, "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Many of us have not had to face any such trial as this. God expects us to endure. James 1:12 NKJV says, "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." Also, Psalms 118:6 NKJV says, "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Our focus should be on a life that is pleasing to God. We are to most of all do what is right. Following how God says we should live is worth more than the riches of this world. Psalms 119:127-128 NKJV "Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold! Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right." God's commandments give us wisdom and understanding for life. Psalms 111:10 NKJV says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. God's commandments give us the good judgement and knowledge we need for life. Psalms 119:66 NKJV says, "Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments." It is not talking about personal ideals but the good commandments of the Bible.

God did not give us useless facts and information. What does knowing how far the moon is from the earth help us in life? Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Some people say, "What has God done for me?" They have never learned God's truth for life because if they had, they would not be able to say that God never did anything for them. Millions of people have been helped to have a better life through God's good commandments. Psalms 34:8 NKJV says, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who

trusts in Him!" Trust in God and His commandments. God is good and is still good. Psalms 100:5 NKJV says, "For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

God wants what is best for us so keep His commandments. Deuteronomy 4:40 NKJV says, "Keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days." God's commandments are right and good. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "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."

What are we listening to or entertaining in our mind? Is it fruitful? We need to control our thoughts. Proverbs 4:23 NKJV says, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." God can help us in life, so do not let situations get the better of you. Do what is right and good. God will help those who respect Him, He is able to help us. Psalms 145:18-20 NKJV says, "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The LORD preserves all who love Him."

Do not allow your heart to lead you to follow faulty ideas and intentions. Build your thoughts and ideals on how God says we should live. We all have the ability to decide what we will do. Be committed to doing what is right and good. Proverbs 16:3 NKJV says, "Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established." Learn how God wants you to live and be strong spiritually.

Psalms 119:9-16 NKJV says,  
 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.  
 With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your  
 commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin  
 against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I  
 have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your  
 testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and  
 contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your  
 word.

### **Here is more to consider.**

God's spiritual people are more than shells of human beings. All people are more than just a physical entity. That is the view some people take about people. People are not just a piece of paper or a pencil. We could write a book about all the different made-up ideas people can have about who we are. Some confuse natural knowledge with spiritual knowledge. Some things in the natural are good to take into account, but remember, man-made ideas are not commandments of God. Some man-made ideas are evil. Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings." The Atheist and Humanistic religions are based on intentions of the

heart and are murderous religions. Religions that teach it is okay to commit murder are false religions. We will talk more about this in a little bit.

God is an all-knowing and good God, but He must judge people accordingly. There is a right way and a wrong way to act. Use good sense in life, but most of all, follow God's commandments. God's commandments come from an all-knowing and good creator God who has our best interests at heart. 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!"

God's people will be blessed forever and therefore are a special people. We are God's holy people if we keep His commandments. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, **if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.**" God's commandments apply to life and make us a special holy people.

Deuteronomy 7:6 NKJV says,

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 14:2 NKJV says,

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 26:18-19 NKJV says,

Also today the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken."

Malachi 3:17 NKJV says,

"They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, on the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.

We need to talk about what some people consider to be a matter of personal beliefs. We need to understand that any set of beliefs is an ideology, a doctrine. There are many scholars that refer to the doctrines of the atheist religions. These scholars understand that they are teaching atheist doctrines. The Bible says we are to follow the doctrine of the Bible. Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law." To follow the doctrines of these atheist religions in many cases means we are not following what the Bible says and are therefore not following the true God.

#### The Atheist and Humanistic religions.

We need to talk about false religions from time to time so we do not believe in their false doctrines. Let's talk about a major man-made religious doctrine that people believe in, the Humanist and Atheist religions. Any set of ideas or ideals is a religion according to the dictionary

of philosophy and religion. How do these religions typically view human beings? Perhaps they see human beings as being just a matter of chance, perhaps no better than a rock. One famous atheist said that there is no reality. It sounds like some of them believe there is nothing right or true. They think it is all just a matter of what the individual thinks is true. Surely that is not like what most religious Christians or Jews think. Christians and Jews get their ideas, ideals, and views on life from the Bible. They have something to guide them in life instead of a made-up belief system that can even include totally crazy made-up ideas like a speaker I heard at the astronomy conference once.

Astronomy is a science, but it seems some have made some of it into a bunch of random ideas. One of the speakers at the astronomy conference talked about all the possible ideas he had on existence instead of anything that could be said to be true. None of what he had to say was founded on real science and experimental truth. It was just a bunch of ideas he came up with. Astronomy is a science. It is not a bunch of ridiculous made-up fairy-tale ideas.

The Humanist and Atheist religions are allowed to think and pursue information but for them, there is no best way to live life. They want happiness but how and through what means? They want to improve their life and are moral to the extent that it suits them. They want to improve their personal life and social conditions but how will they do that? One atheist country is presently at war with another country to improve their lives by taking it over, but the war is at the expense of the lives of both countries. The Bible says do not murder and do not covet. They are acting in direct contradiction to what the Bible says to do and murdering others. Atheists are often drawn to environmental causes. Some environmentalists believe that people should be murdered because there are too many people in the world. When I went to the Amazon jungle, I was told that Greenpeace was murdering people who lived in the jungle for the cause of environmentalism. Good intentions and feelings often do not produce truth. These Atheist religions say they care about the environment and tell us about global warming. Strangely, back in the 1970s they were saying that another ice age is coming. You can look that up online. It seems they will do anything to get people upset. Getting others upset is often another one of their tenets. They say their ideas make them good people. They are just "virtue signaling." What they often assert as good is just speculation and even causes harm at times.

Atheist doctrines and concepts are necessary to understand because we need to know where these ideas come from. Most atheist doctrine has to do with discrediting those who believe in God. They will say they care about the world, but it is a proven fact that Christians and Jews do more for the world than they do. The Bible commands us to help others. The Atheist doctrines, like other secular doctrines have a belief system, but it is not always easily identified and is based on intentions and emotions. They are both similar in that way.

For example, humanists say they want to improve society. So, in religious atheist countries they suppress and murder people that believe in God because they wrongly believe that atheists make a better society. Their ideas come at the expense of others. Religious atheists have turned out to be the most murderous people that ever lived, and it is still going on in our era every day. Just 2 atheist countries murdered some 90 million in the 1900s. By far, their evil has been greater than any good they think they accomplish. They will say things like Christians killed people during the Crusades, but that happened some 900 years ago. Christianity only did

that for about 200 years of their 2,000-year existence. Atheists will exaggerate and say that millions were killed in the Spanish inquisition. I have read that it was 32,000. While that is terrible, it does not compare to the millions killed by atheist countries.

Do you see how the Atheist and Humanist religions are untethered to truth and what is right and good? While caring about the environment and other people is good. These religions have no basis beyond anything that they come up with or make up.

Some religions have a record of murder since they came into existence, and these are mostly the atheist religions. The majority of people may want peace, but the doctrine they believe in encourages murder, controlling land, for controlling the people they rule, and sometimes for male sexual promiscuity. Murder is breaking a commandment of God and so is fornication. There are some who want change, there are some with more moderate beliefs, and perhaps some of these abusive societies will change someday, but they have a poor record so far. The evil religious people who believe in God of any faith causes God to be defamed. They will not go unpunished. Hebrews 10:30-31 NKJV says, "'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." Some think they will somehow be rewarded for their evil behavior. Jude 1:13 NKJV says, "For whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." It is not my opinion, that is what God says.

#### Back to understanding who we are.

Why is this important to understand? We need to have our thoughts on what is true and good, and the understanding we get from an all-knowing and good God from the Bible. Why is that? Focusing on God's truths for life will set our minds and hearts on living for what is true, right, and good. We need to understand how some get off track or how some make a philosophy of life into doctrine. We should not get confused by their lies.

We are to develop our preferences so they are based on what is right and true, on what God says. Psalms 26:3 NKJV says, "For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth." It is what God says is truth and not made-up ideas on life. When people say that we are to just love others, they then must make up their own ideas on how to do that. When people say that God accepts me as I am they also often make up their own ideas about life because they will often accept sin. It is true that God accepts us if we repent from sin, but we must follow His commandments. Sin separates us from God and from truth. His truths are what we need for life. This is an important scripture. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you."

I should mention that people who have accepted the Messiah Yeshua also are to receive the Holy Spirit from God. The Holy Spirit is another helper in life. The first helper is God's commandments (see John 12:15-17). The Holy Spirit is good. Luke 11:13 NKJV says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" The Holy Spirit through us can do miracles, healings, inform us, and so much more.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 NKJV says,

But 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."

The Holy Spirit can also help us to love others and be kind. Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." God has truly made believers a special people through His commandments and also through the gift of the Holy Spirit, but we must live life by God's truths.

We seek a future that is not at all like the present.

Adam and Eve decided to do things their own way in the Garden. They had eternal life but lost it. Since then, each person must choose how they will live. We each have the opportunity to follow God and do what is right. Those who want to live in truth and follow God's commandments are promised eternal life in a future kingdom. Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." Those who are wise keep God's 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.'" Those who keep God's commandments will be in the future kingdom. Those who do not will be in the lake of fire in everlasting contempt (See Revelation 21:8).

The streets of the new future kingdom will look like gold. God can do that because He is God. It will be an amazing place. Revelation 21:21 NKJV says, "And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass." Those who have suffered will suffer no longer. Revelation 21:4-5 NKJV says, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

We have proof that there is a future kingdom of God because we have the Holy Spirit. We get to see miracles and healings and we can receive supernatural knowledge. Speaking in Tongues is a constant witness to those who receive the Holy Spirit. Not only that, but there were also witnesses to Yeshua's resurrection thereby putting any doubt to rest. Yeshua's resurrection is a recorded historical fact. Over 500 people saw Yeshua after He rose from the dead at the same time.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NKJV says,  
 Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have

fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also.

There are a lot of ideas and ideals. There are a lot of religions, but only one Messiah who rose from the dead and is now waiting in heaven until the appointed time when He will return. We are witnesses to truth. It is not made up. Just because science makes up some of their doctrine it doesn't mean the resurrection of Yeshua didn't happen.

### What do we picture?

Everyone has an idea of what life is about and that often includes the things they like and do not like, what they want in life, and what they think will give them satisfaction in life. Mankind has so much to enjoy and appreciate and the first thing we should put on our list is an appreciation for God and all He has done for us. 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 should be thrilled to have God's good commandments, and we should love God for them.

Everything in life need not be based on our personal self-gratification. Those kinds of people do what they please and seek their own ways. Everything they do is based on what they picture their life should be like and based on worldly ideals. I think it must be boring just going from one thing to another to seek satisfaction and never totally finding it. Carl Marx said that our faith is the opiate of the people. He is saying that we just use our faith in God as a crutch in life. Instead, his Atheistic faith leads to mass annihilation of millions of people. Our faith leads to reality, truth, kindness, and eternal life. Who would you rather trust in, Carl Marx or God?

Consider what you think. Are they truths, are you sincere, or are you just looking for thrills? Wanting the truth and seeking the truth is important. People will spend their whole life pursuing truth, but it is not far from them. All they need to do is open their eyes to the truths of the Bible. Sincerity or good intentions is not a guarantee for truth. A person can be sincerely wrong like a country that is murdering people for their land. Psalms 14:1 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." This was perhaps written some 3,000 years ago and it is still true.

Instead of being sincere about our own personal ideals, be sincere about God's truth that help us to have a good life. Psalms 19:8 NKJV says, "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." God's commandments bring rejoicing and not pain and murder. Psalms 28:7 NKJV says, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him." The psalmist has something to rejoice about because he has truths for life. He greatly rejoices.

Some people are always looking for more depth, more excitement, for the unknown to be revealed, or for extra insights into the scriptures. Although having fun is a good thing, the most important thing is to learn how to live right. God's commandments are "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). Psalms 19:7-9 NKJV says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether." This is a testimony to the goodness of God's commandments. They are perfect, sure, wise, right, pure, and enlightening, and they are true forever.

### In Conclusion.

It is not correct to think that just anything we think up is okay. God gave us His word to help us in the ups and downs of life. God is our refuge and strength. Focus on pleasing God and doing what is right and good. Watch what we allow our minds to consider. Be committed to following the truths of the Bible and not false ideals or faulty intentions.

God's spiritual people are more than shells of human beings. People are more than just a physical entity. Each person is a special thinking human being. Those who keep God's commandments are God's special holy people. In this era, God also has given the supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit to the believer through the Messiah Yeshua.

We seek a future that is not at all like the present. We have received God's good commandments so we have a better life and those who are faithful will be resurrected and be part of His future kingdom with streets of gold. Instead of being sincere about a set of ideas or ideals, be sincere about following God and His truths for life. People will do what they please and seek their own ways. They do not want God so they will not be with Him in His future kingdom. They have chosen their own path. We will follow God and His ways which lead to eternal life in His glorious kingdom.

### **This is our Torah study for today.**

The Torah portion for this week is Bamidbar and means, "In the wilderness." We now begin our study on the book of Numbers. The accounts begin on the first day of the second month (Iyar) which often coincides with the Gregorian month of May.

Numbers Chapter 9 says it is now the 1st day of the 1st month. So, was this misplaced as some say or were the first 8 chapters instructions of one particular kind, and in Chapter 9, it begins with the inclusion of some important stories and information that we can learn from. I do not believe it was misplaced. In Numbers 9:5 they kept (they did) the Passover, so perhaps we can learn from that they kept God's feasts.

Also, they kept the command to break camp and go to the place where the cloud settled while they were in the desert. It is a different Hebrew word in verse 19 which can mean to keep or guard. Numbers 9:17 NKJV says, "Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents." It says they were faithful to do this. Numbers 9:19 NKJV says, "Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel **kept** [guarded] the charge of the LORD." So, **every day**, they had to look and see if they were to leave or remain. So, it would seem for the most part, they were faithful to do what God told them to do with fewer exceptions than some think.

Since Numbers begins in the second year in the desert, it contains some of the stories and information during their roughly 39 years. Exodus then is about the first year in the desert. Deuteronomy occurs as the end of the 40th year. Numbers is not strictly a book of numbers as some think. Their second year in the desert reveals they were intent on keeping what God told them to do. In Numbers, there is a census, the camp is setup with the Levites surrounding the Mishkan (The Tabernacle). and their duties explained. The Nazarite vow is explained, God confirms Aaron as High Priest, Balaam is not allowed to curse Israel, more instructions, the borders of Israel are given, and cities of refuge are explained. Numbers also teaches us a few stories of those who succeeded and of those who failed so we do not make the same mistakes.

The census' given in the Torah reveals to us that there were some 600,000 men who left Egypt. If we count women and children, that adds up to a possible 2 or 3 million who left Egypt. Some would have you believe that all of Israel failed, but as we can see, that is not true. It was only a minority. In the end, some 2 to 3 million people entered the land of Canaan. That is a lot of people who pulled together and made it.

The same is true today. Some believers are genuine believers who desire to keep God's commandments and do what is right. There are some though who make up excuses to not follow God's commandments, and they will not make it into the future kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV says,

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Shaul is repeating himself. He already told them before and is warning them again. He must have considered this important. That is why we need to share this frequently. For the person who wants to be a true believer in God, they will do everything they can to follow what God tells us. True believers want the truths of the scriptures, they want to follow God's commandments, they are willing to continue to grow spiritually and change, they are willing to take the time to pray, to be kind, to treat others with respect, and they love God.

Also, this should help us to understand that Yeshua taught that we are to keep the law. Shaul gives us representative lists of God's commandments. Jewish lists were not intended to be complete lists. There are more than 10 commandments so a short list of some of the things that he wanted to highlight are given in Galatians. Shaul gives us a different list in 1 Corinthians.

For example, in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV it says,

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? 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.

This is another, but a different short list.

Even believers in the Messiah are warned. Hebrews 3:12 NKJV says, "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." Hebrews 3:14 NKJV says we are to remain, "Steadfast to the end." The 2 to 3 million believers who started

out in the desert desired the promised land and the future good and wonderful kingdom of God. In a similar way, believers in the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) who live in this evil world also seek the future good and wonderful kingdom of God. What are we to be steadfast to? What are we to beware of?

Yeshua taught us that we are to keep the law. Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Yeshua will reject those who do not keep the Old Testament law. Yeshua most definitely makes a strong point for keeping the law. All the writers of the New Testament told us to keep the Old Testament commandments.

Shaul said the law is not done away with but is established. Romans 3:31 NKJV says, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Yochanan said that it is a sin not to keep the law. 1 John 3:4 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." It says in the Hebrew James 2:12, "So, speak and so do like those prepared to be judged by the Torah of the Examiner!" From The Epistle of James (a translation from the Hebrew) by Doctor Miles Jones, page 28. The Torah is the first 5 books of the Bible. Liberty was added to the Greek text and is not in the Hebrew. That one word dramatically alters what it says in the Epistle.

We know that some of the Greek New Testament scriptures got changed by heretics. For example, in Jerome's introduction to the Latin Vulgate written in about 382 AD Jerome said, "Why not go back to the original Greek and correct the mistakes introduced by inaccurate translators, and the blundering alterations of confident but ignorant critics, and, further, all that has been inserted or changed by copyists more asleep than awake?" When it seems to say in our Bibles that the law has been done away with, we know that it was probably due to the alteration and insertions made by those who did not believe in God properly.

### **This is our Torah Study.**

The Torah portion for this week is Bamidbar and means, "In the wilderness." We now begin our study on the book of Numbers. Numbers teach us some stories of unbelief so that we do not fall into the same trap; they are object lessons for faith. There will always be some who fall into sin and unbelief. Even believers in the Messiah are warned. Hebrews 3:12 NKJV says, "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." Hebrews 3:14 NKJV says we are to remain, "Steadfast to the end." The 2 million believers who started out in the desert desired the promised land. In a similar way, believers in the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) who live in this evil world seek the future good kingdom of God.

Let's talk more about the Torah portion for today. On the first day of the second month (the biblical month of Iyyar) of the second year, God told Moshe (Moses) to take a census of all the people of Israel and to write down the names of all the men twenty years and older for military service. God chooses the heads of the tribes by name that are to help Moshe count the census and the total of those counted 20 and older was 603,550 not including the Levi'im (the tribe of Levi). This is just men above 20, so the 2 million or more of population projected by some is a reasonable estimate. The miracle of Israel was quite an amazing miracle when we consider all

that God did for them; He kept them safe, He fed them and gave them water, and He gave them the land of evil people who were killing their own children.

The Levi'im are to be in charge of the tabernacle and camp around it. Israel was to set up camp by each tribe's banner around the Mishkan (Tent of Meeting – *ohel moed*). There were three tribes on each side of the Mishkan. The encampment formed a rectangle. Moshe and Aharon and his sons camped to the east of the Mishkan and the tribe of Judah east of them. The tribe of Judah had one tribe on each side of them to the east.

Israel was developing a sense of identity with God as their King at the center of their camp and lives. I've talked to some pastors who told me that it was not true. They told me God was not at the center of their lives. Some people have a negative attitude towards Israel. They must be deluded. Think about this. Some 2 million people entered the land of Israel; not all the people sinned. That is really amazing! Just like in our time, not everyone lives in sin.

The decedents of Moshe and Aharon are then given. Nadav and Avihu the sons of Aharon died because they offered a sacrifice they were not supposed to. El'azar and Itamar served as Cohanim and the Levi'im were to help out at the Mishkan. The first-born males of Israelites and animals belong to the Lord. The clans of the Levi'im and their duties are then given.

The Levi'im take the place of the first born of Israel (as an act of redemption). Extra money is needed to redeem the first born of Israel. Then the portion describes how they were to wrap the articles of the Mishkan and the decedents of K'hat were to carry them but not look at them or touch them. El'azar is responsible for the items of the Mishkan and each Cohanim is to be assigned a task.

This portion begins with God telling Moshe to take a census on the 1st day of the second month (Iyyar) of the second year since they left Egypt; that would be on the first of Iyyar, just a couple of weeks after Pesach (Passover). It is notable here that God chooses the leaders by name. Next God tells them how they are to arrange their camp, the duties of the Levites, and the numbered Levites redeemed the firstborn of Israel. The Levites were not numbered among the soldiers. They had not committed the sin of the golden calf, so instead they were to be spiritual defenders of the faith.

When God chooses leaders by name here it should help us to understand that God knows us and who we are; Yeshua (Jesus) tells us in Luke 12:7 that even the hairs on our head are numbered; God values us. On average, there are 100,000 hairs on our heads. Yeshua makes quite a statement, and it demonstrates that God is all knowing. The Levites stand in to redeem the firstborn of Israel; Yeshua came from heaven to redeem mankind. He was an example for us and redeemed us through His blood. We need redemption through the Messiah. Leviticus 17:11 NKJV says, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." We need to believe in the Messiah Yeshua and His act of redemption. He redeemed all believers both from Old Testament times and New, including Abraham. Yeshua said that Abraham looked forward to Yeshua coming (see John 8:56).

Shavuot is near; on Shavuot (Pentecost), we should be thankful for the law which was given on Shavuot and also the Holy Spirit which was given on Shavuot. We will talk more about Shavuot on Shavuot. **Make sure to celebrate God's feast (see Leviticus 23:2).** Since they are God's feasts; shouldn't we celebrate them? After all, we have all kinds of celebrations. Are our birthdays and other celebrations more important than God's appointed days? Shouldn't our lives revolve around God's timing and not just our own celebrations?

Leviticus 23:1-2 NKJV says, "The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, **these are My feasts.**'" The Hebrew word for feasts is "moedim." From the inception of creation, we were designed by God to meet with Him on His feasts. Genesis 1:14 NKJV says, "Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and **seasons.**'" **The word seasons is "moedim" which means meetings and is translated feasts in Leviticus!**

The Bible says that we are to count 50 days after the day of rest (Shabbat means rest. The day of rest following Passover is the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. **God's feasts often have a day of rest (Shabbat).** Some argue that we are to count 50 days from the weekend day of rest which then means in most cases that they are beginning the count several days after Passover and the number of days would change each year. They were farmers. If they began to harvest the barley, wouldn't it make sense they could not wait around to get back to harvest. So, a more standard observance makes better sense.

It makes more sense to me that the 50-day count of the Omer should start the day of rest immediately following the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. They would observe Passover. Passover extends into the next day, the day of rest associated with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. They then give their First Fruits offering after the Shabbat of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and begin the count and go home to continue harvesting.

In ancient times, planting took place over a period of time and not all at once like it is done today by machine. Farmers know that the harvest is important and they need to get back to harvest and not wait around. **It is important to celebrate God's feasts** whatever you believe about the timing. The confusion comes from an interpretation of the scriptures that doesn't seem to be clear. It is possible that the scriptures were only making sure that they kept a 50-day count by referencing the Sabbath.

The Haftarah for Bamidbar is Hosea 2:1-22. This Haftarah portion begins by saying Israel will number as the grains of the sands of the sea. They will be called the sons of the living God and both Israel and Judah will gather together and have one King. This refers to the future end time kingdom of Israel. Hosea then talks about their present state by talking about their idolatry as spiritual adultery and that God will not favor them because of it; He will punish them. Some day they will come to understand that their true love, God, is their true provider. Instead of calling God Ba'ali (my master), they will call Him Ishi (my husband). At this future time, all the earth will submit to God and Israel will be his people. At that time God will make a covenant with the animals, there will be no more war, He will be betrothed to His people Israel, and Israel will

again say that Yĕhōváh (Hosea 2:16) is their God. Yĕhōváh is God's real name (Exodus 3:15) and forms and acronym that means – He was, He is, and He will be.

**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, Yĕ-hō-váh. Yĕ-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, Yĕ-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, Yĕ-hō-váh. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yĕ-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah which means to exist. Yĕ-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. He is our eternal God and creator. I want to honor God's name. Will you also honor God's name?

Some people call God Hashem which means "the name." They dishonor God's name by not using His name (see Deuteronomy 29:20). When we honor someone, we use their name in an appropriate way. Christians, for the most part, do not use the true name of God. Why not begin using His true name and honor Him? Do not be afraid to use God's real name with respect. I say this in order to encourage you to use God's real name because it points to God being our eternal creator.

The ancient rabbis say that is God's name. The church Fathers said God's name is Yĕ-hō-váh. I have seen God's name pointed as Yĕ-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 Yĕ-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, וְיִחַנֶּנָּךְ  
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיִשָּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹמִים

Yĕ-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yĕ-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yĕ-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.