



#28 Metzora Leviticus14:1-15:33

Torah Teaching and teaching, Follow God 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
(We also use transliterations from Hebrew)

Stay on track spiritually. Staying on track means we stay on the our spiritual path. Proverbs 4:26-27 NKJV says, "Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil." We are to think about where we are going spiritually and do what is right and good.

Also, take comfort in the truth. Psalms 19:9-11 NKJV says, "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward." We have so much to be thankful for because we have the truth, so be at peace.

If we want to stay on the right track spiritually, we need to understand the Jewish roots of the Bible. Our Messiah was Jewish and so were all the early believers. Our belief system was hijacked by the Roman Empire, and they removed the roots of our faith in favor of a pagan church. The writers of the Bible were Jewish including the writer of many of our New Testament portion letters. Shaul says in Galatians 1:14 NKJV, "I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers." People often do not consider the roots of their faith and it causes them to error in their understanding of the Bible.

Many of us including myself were introduced into a systematically developed religious system that was passed down to us from the Roman Empire. This includes all forms of both Catholic and Protestant belief systems. It was a man-made system of faith that was developed to make our faith into a Greco-Roman religion. The Roman Empire then called the true people of faith heretics and persecuted and killed the true believers. We inherited this apostate religion. The Roman Empire made it illegal to keep the feasts of the Bible. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:17

NKJV, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets." They explain away the statements and teachings of God and Yeshua and by doing so they make even Jesus into a liar and heretic by their own teachings.

Our statements of faith are not supposed to be made up by mankind; we are not supposed to be living in a man-made systematically developed religious system. Instead, we need to put off the pagan practices of the apostate Roman Empire. We are to believe in and practice what the Bible says. For example, the apostate church will celebrate Easter which is the goddess of fertility. We celebrate Passover which has to do with both the deliverance of Israel and the death and resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah. (Yeshua is the real Hebrew name of the Messiah as seen in the Hebrew manuscripts of the Bible. Also, Yeshua's brother Ya'akov (James) calls his half-brother Yeshua in the Hebrew version of his epistle.) The apostate churches are a manufactured belief system and not the original belief system of the Jewish Messiah Jesus (Yeshua the Messiah).

The apostate church doesn't celebrate the feasts of the Bible; they don't celebrate God's holy day of Shabbat. They will often celebrate their own feasts; they often celebrate Sunday instead of Shabbat. Sunday is the day of the pagan sun god. They will make up excuses to not to do what the Bible says. Yeshua said about these people in Matthew 15:9 NKJV, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Deuteronomy 12:31 NKJV says, "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods." The roots of coloring eggs comes from when the pagans would sacrifice their babies and color eggs with the blood of the infants.

God hates the practices of the pagans and we are not to incorporate any of their practices. So calling the resurrection of Yeshua Easter after the goddess of fertility is an abomination to God. Abomination means disgusting. Some even get up early to watch the sun rise on Easter Sunday. Observing Sunday instead of the day God made holy is an abomination to God; God considers it disgusting. Genesis 2:3 NKJV says, "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

Shabbat means rest and Shabbat honors the day of rest that God made holy at the beginning of time. If we believe that God is the creator, we are to honor the day He made holy and not the day of the pagan sun god.

Isaiah 29:13-14 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, therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden.

It's true isn't it. They maintain their lies with veracity and so bring to pass this prophecy that they will die without understanding the truths of the Bible. They think their heart is the heart of God, but instead they follow and teach lies and the commandments of men.

The true saints of God who have given their blood for the truths of the Bible are the ones who teach truth. They teach Gods true feasts; they teach Gods commandments and keep them; they follow God and not lies. Those who continue to follow lies are guilty of the murder of the true saints unless they repent. They keep the lies of the apostate church and are implicated by association. Many have believed in the Messiah through these apostate churches, but not all of them will be in His future kingdom. So, why take a chance?

Don't be influenced by these apostate people who seek to please man instead of God. They say they believe in the Bible, but don't do what the Bible says. They say they speak words of truth, but they teach people lies. Their actions over the centuries has caused the true faith to be blasphemed – to be spoken of as evil. True believers do what is right and keep what the Bible says.

Kefa says about these people who refuse to live right.

2 Peter 2:2-4 NKJV,

And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness **they will exploit you** with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.

Watch out for them. They think they are messengers of God and they will try to deceive you, but don't give in.

This week the portion Metzora means "leper." This portion begins with the purification rights and offerings for someone who has been healed of leprosy. It then talks about a possible infection being in the walls of a house and what to do if they find an infection in the house. Part of the house may be removed or if it is a contagious tzara'at (leprosy) then the house must be destroyed. People who were in the house also need to be observed for signs of leprosy. If the tzara'at is removed and the house is now clean, then a purification ceremony is observed.

The portion next talks about anything or anyone coming in contact with someone who has a discharge from their body and what to do about it; they are also unclean. Also, it talks about what a person is to do if the discharge stops; they are to make an offering. The portion talks about what to do if a seminal emission occurs, bathing after sexual relations, and a woman having her period. If a woman's discharge of blood lasts longer she will be unclean during that time and in both cases, it talks about how that makes other people or things unclean. An offering must be made for an extended time of niddah (discharge of blood). This is done so that they will not die for defiling the Mishkan (the Tent of Meeting in the desert, the Tabernacle). Also, we should again see God's protection in these commands.

In this portion, God again makes provision for the protection of the people from disease and can be applied to other areas of life.¹ It is obvious that people with leprosy or a discharge could be contagious and cause others to be sick. We should remember that God intends good for us

¹ Years ago we didn't know that asbestos or lead (in paint) could be harmful and was put in many of the older homes.

and not evil. His rules were never intended to burden us. Also, the Mishkan (the Tabernacle) was to be a carefully guarded and revered place and no one with anything contagious was to come near it. It was a spiritual picture to Israel for them to be a holy people. This can also be spiritual picture of us guarding our lives and spiritual walk so that it is pure and free from sin. Just like the Temple was a special place, Shaul (Paul) tells us to glorify God because the Holy Spirit is in those who believe in Yeshua.

We are temples with the Holy Spirit in us. First of all, note the context, "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;" 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV. Then in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV it says, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." The Temple was to be an especially pure place and so are believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

The Haftarah for Metzora is 2 Kings 7:3-20. This portion tells the story of 4 lepers who said, 'why should we sit here until we die' and they went into the camp of the army of Aram and found it deserted because God had caused the army to flee with fear. They went back and reported it to the gatekeepers of the city. The king found that the army of Aram had fled, and the people went and ransacked the camp. The man who had scoffed at Elisha's prediction was trampled to death at the gate.

This story should remind us that God can use anyone if they are willing to start doing something for the kingdom. Shaul compares the believers in the Messiah to a body whose parts function together as they serve each other and the Messiah Yeshua. Also, we should be careful to have good attitudes about God. The man who had a negative attitude about what God was about to do ended up being trampled to death. We need and want truth, or we will end up with wrong ideas and wrong doctrine.

Wrong doctrine will lead to our eternal demise. Some people think they can do whatever they want. Shaul said in Galatians 5:21 NKJV, "Just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." And in Galatians 6:7 NKJV, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked."

Follow God **(an accompanying teaching to the Torah portion)**

God is bigger than false doctrines. False teachers think they are going somewhere. They are not going where they think. Shaul (Paul) said in 1 Timothy 6:3-4 CJB, "**If anyone teaches differently and does not agree to the sound precepts of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and to the doctrine that is in keeping with godliness**, he is swollen with conceit and understands nothing." To live right and live godly lives, we need to follow God's commandments and understand the Bible in its Jewish context.

Some people think they have sound precepts and doctrine, but they are far from God. If they are not teaching others to do what is right and be godly, the Bible essentially said that they are just big swollen "wind bags" (swollen with pride) that do not understand a thing. A wind bag is someone who has a lot to say, but what they say is worthless, just a lot of air. Think about it; if what they teach lacks understanding and truth, then what they have to say is worthless.

Wearing fancy clothes does not mean someone teaches truth. Their clothes are just baubles. A bauble is something of little value that is used for show. Anyone can wear a funny hat and some ridiculous outdated attire from ancient times. There are so called Christians who wear red hats and clothes and call themselves cardinals. Their attire comes from a pagan cult that used to dance around a fire with red clothes on. Perhaps they think they are birds. Ridiculous costumes do not qualify someone for ministry; those who follow the true God are the true people who are equipped to serve others. Do not follow man; follow God. So, what is true doctrine?

What does the Bible says is true doctrine?

2 Timothy 3:14-4:3 NKJV

3:14-15 "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

In verses 14 and 15, Shaul (Paul) says to Timothy to continue in what he learned since he was a child. He was to continue in the Holy Scriptures. His mother was Jewish ("And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed;" Acts 16:1). She would have taught him the Old Testament. **Since there was no New Testament at the time**, Shaul must be talking about the Old Testament.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

So, then Shaul says that the Old Testament was, "Given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work;" 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV. So, the people that say the Old Testament is done away with are not keeping the properly applied commandments and they, "understand nothing." Again, 1 Timothy 6:3-4 CJB, "If anyone teaches differently and does not agree to the sound precepts of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and to the doctrine that is in keeping with godliness, he is swollen with conceit and understands nothing."

What is so bad about doing what is right and keeping God's commandments from the Old Testament?² Don't we all want that? Evidently, some just want to be foolish. The Bible says that

² We are not talking about the Jewish commentaries of the Mishnah and Talmud. They may contain some pertinent information, but they are not the Bible and God's word. They are man-made ideas.

those who do not want to do good, think they know everything, but in fact they know nothing (doing good in Jewish thought is keeping God's commandments).

2 Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine."

It says that Yeshua will judge us so preach with urgency, "Convince, rebuke, exhort." This does not sound like the all you have to do is love mumbo jumbo, wishy washy, anything goes lies we here about how to follow God. It is true, isn't it; people are not teaching God's laws and commands from the Old Testament or the New Testament. There are some 1,050 laws in the New Testament that have come from interpretations of the Old Testament. I am not talking about misapplied man-made laws. For example, the Old Testament says to have honest weights and measures. If we did not have that as part of our law, our country would fall apart. God's laws are intended to help us; why not keep them; God is God, and we are not.

Some people think they can do what they want, but someday they will have to stand before God. Jude 1:4 NKJV says, "For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness." These false teachers think they can teach whatever they want instead of teaching people to keep God's commandments and do what is right. It says they turned the favor of God into sinful disgusting behaviors. These false teachers say it does not matter if we keep what it says in the Old Testament.

Again, it says about the Old Testament scriptures in 2 Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV, "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine."

God will judge those who do not keep the Old Testament. Shaul tells Timothy to teach the Old Testament all the time because there will be a time when people will not keep the Holy Scriptures; they will not keep sound doctrine. I know that I shared this before; but we need to understand these scriptures, Hebrews 10:29-31 NKJV says, "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

God will judge His people for the wrong they have done. He is not judging them on what they think is right, but on what God says is right. In these scriptures in Hebrews, it is talking about believers. It is through the truths of the Holy Scriptures from the Old Testament that we will find true light and be at true peace. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:17 NKJV, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets." So, quit making excuses. "I didn't know," will not

work with God at the judgment. Hebrews 12:14 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and **holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.**" Without being a holy separate people who keep God's commandments, we will go to another place where we will not see God. I do not know about you, but I want to be on God's good side. Instead of spreading the leprosy of sin and hate, be a messenger of truth and blessing.

God gave us the laws in the Old Testament portion to protect us. The laws in this portion make a precedent for the protection of others from disease. When we do what God tells us, we can be blessed by God. When we serve others, God can use us for His purposes. God even used lepers who discovered the invading army had left without taking their supplies with them. False doctrines are of no consequence to God. Just because someone wears weird clothes, it does not qualify them to teach about the true God. Timothy was taught the Holy Scriptures from the Old Testament and God will judge us by His truths and not by our man-made doctrine. He wants us to live by them because He is an all-knowing God and they are good for us. We stay on track spiritually by following what the Bible says and not man-made doctrine. Take comfort in knowing the truth of the scriptures.