



#23 Pekudei Exodus 38:21-40:38
Torah Teaching
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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

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah

Pekudei – the 23rd Torah portion

Pekudei means "accountings of" and is often part of a double portion on years without a leap month. Today it is a single portion. The root verb is *Pakad* means "to account." *Pakid* is the Hebrew word for overseer.

Sometimes old things are built to last. God gave us His word and is the truth forever. Malachi 3:6 NKJV says, "For I am the LORD, I do not change." Numbers 23:19 NKJV, "God is not a man, that He should lie." God's word does not change and He has not misled us.

Think about the pyramids. They have lasted thousands of years, but all the old buildings in our city centers have been either torn down or have needed to be fixed up. God created the earth and it still exists. God does things much better than man can.

Science takes credit for discovering what God has created. They may say that they created something, but science can only examine and discover what God has created. They may use something that God has created and make something from what God has created. They don't in fact create anything.

God knows what is best because He is the creator. He gives us His law and commandments because He cares about us. Psalm 119:30-31 NKJV, "I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me. I cling to Your testimonies. In Psalm 119:65-66 NKJV says, "O LORD, according to Your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments."

God's word helps us to have good judgment and informs us; believe in His commandments. I've been listening to some talk radio this week. They won't talk about what the Bible says. Instead, they speculate on issues and try to get us excited about their point of view. Remember, they are only entertainment. They are trying to get you to keep listening to their show. They may be right, but they could be wrong. God's word can inform us about the things of life. Let's get excited about His words of truth.

God's eternal kingdom will last forever; the darkness of this world will come to nothing. On the day the enormous towers in New York City were attacked and destroyed, people were running into a church across the street with the name of God in front in Hebrew on the inside. God's name is Yĕhōvâh as attested by the church Fathers, the ancient Rabbis, and over 2,000 different manuscripts pointed as Yĕhōvâh.

The church remained, but the towers were destroyed. It possibly could demonstrate that even the little things of God are more lasting than anything mankind can make or come up with. It is ironic that there is a scripture that seems to allude to what happened. Proverbs 18:10 NKJV says, "The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." Those that ran into the church with God's name in it, Yĕhōvâh, were safe. The word in the verse with all caps is Yĕhōvâh in the manuscripts.

I can't stress this more. What are you building in your life? Is it something lasting and eternal or something temporary? 2 Corinthians 4:18 NKJV, "While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Are we too proud to accept God and His commandments and truths or will we see the virtue of doing things the way the creator told us. People who do things their own way make themselves into god and stand against the truths of the creator God.

The ways of God lead us to truth. The ways of mankind may not get us anywhere. Have you ever been in a roundabout and missed your turn? A roundabout is a road that goes in a circle with several options to turn onto another road. Life without God is like being stuck on a roundabout. You go around and around in life without any true and good direction. We need God's truths. Psalm 119:160 NKJV says, "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."

Didn't we already say that God doesn't change? Why do people say the Old Testament is done away with then? They say we believe in Jesus now and He has done away with the law. Yeshua (Jesus' real name) said just the opposite. Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 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!'"

Proverbs 30:5-6 NKJV says, "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar." These people who are denying God's truths are adding to God's words and changing them aren't they. The Bible says they are liars. These are not my words, but the words of the Bible.

Following the Holy Spirit means you are also following God's commandments. After all, God is a Holy Spirit. After we have applied God's commandments, we then can ask God if there is anything else we should do.

For example, today I was frustrated and instead of hanging on to my angst, I asked God about it and prayed for my problem to be taken care of; I released it to God and within 10 minutes, my prayer was answered. I was a little perplexed. It was too easy. God can do things for us that we don't expect. There is a story in the Bible where God made iron float. 2 Kings 6:5-7 NKJV, "But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, 'Alas, master! For it was borrowed.' So the man of God said, 'Where did it fall?' And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float. Therefore he said, 'Pick it up for yourself.' So he reached out his hand and took it."

Iron does not float, but God can do anything. God can do more than we imagine. Always remember to pray and trust in God. God answered my prayer and He will do that at times for you too.

Torah Study

Pekudei means "accountings of." Pekudei begins by giving an account of the offerings made and more descriptions are made of the items for the Tabernacle. They brought all the finished items to Moshe and then Moshe blessed the workers. Isn't that great! God gives us the power to bless through Him.

The portion ends with the Tabernacle being set up on the first day of the first month, the 1st of Nisan, and when it was set up the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting and the presence of the Yĕhōvāh the LORD filled the tent. When the cloud lifted from over the Mishkan, the Israelites would follow it. A cloud appeared over the Mishkan (Tent of Meeting) during the day and fire would appear over the Mishkan at night during their time (some 39 years) in the desert!

Notice how God did not give them His presence right away, but they learned and grew spiritually. Then God gave them the Tent of Meeting in the desert. Perhaps this is the way God tests us to see if we continue to seek Him. It has been my experience that God will give us things to do and spiritual gifting as we remain faithful. We see in the book of Exodus how Israel was set free from Egypt; they were also set free to serve God and do what is "right and good" (Deuteronomy 6:18).

The 1st of the Jewish month is the month of Nisan. There are four Jewish New Year's: the 1st of Nisan – the counting of king's reigns; the 1st of Elul – animal tithes; the 1st of Tishrei, also known as Rosh Hashanah or Yom Teruah – new year for the calendar year; the 15th of Sh'vat also called Tu BiShvat – tree new year, when trees are planted and other ecological things are often done. Also, the dedication of the Mishkan took 8 days. That's why Chanukkah lasts 8 days; it remembers the rededication of the Temple.

The Haftarah for Pekudei is 1 Kings 7:51- 8:21. The Haftarah portion for Pekudei concludes with the dedication of the first Temple. The presence of the Lord filled the Temple and Solomon blesses the people. Both the Mishkan and the Temple were filled with the presence of God. Like

the Lord filled the Temple, those that believe on the Messiah are filled with the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit should not be taken lightly. According to Hebrews 10:29-31 NKJV we can be an insult to what God has given us.¹ These people will not escape God's punishment. 1 Kings 8:10-11 CJB says (Cohanim means priests), "When the cohanim came out of the Holy Place, the cloud filled the house of ADONAI, so that, because of the cloud, the cohanim could not stand up to perform their service; for the glory of ADONAI filled the house of ADONAI." This is an example of the overcoming presence of the Holy Spirit which we as believers in the Messiah Yeshua can experience.

After reading the scripture about how the presence of God filled the Temple, we may wonder if any of that type of experience is for believers in the Messiah and the answer is yes. We are to receive the Holy Spirit when we believe in the Messiah Yeshua and it impacts our lives, and we can experience the Holy Spirit. Kefa (Peter) said in Acts 2:38-39 NKJV, "Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Some though are not open to the Holy Spirit. It is a commandment of God to receive the Holy Spirit in this Messianic age. Some put on a show; acting is not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with believers in the Messiah Yeshua just like God's presence was with Israel at the Mishkan. God is ever present and is not far from us.

Some of us have experienced the presence of God in amazing ways through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit simply works in our hearts and minds at times, and at other times we can experience a timeless type of presence and peace. If you need that, just acknowledge the presence of God and talk to God. I first experienced God's presence when I did that years ago. Do not let your mind get sidetracked; it is your time with God. God has also given us gifts of the Holy Spirit.

God is amazing and wonderful.

God wants to comfort us and give us peace in every situation. Yeshua told us that He would not leave us as orphans, and He gave us the Holy Spirit. God is able to help us supernaturally, so we are to pray and cast our anxieties on God. Be sensible and do not tempt God. You do your part in a sensible manner and let God take care of the rest. Pray for protection and for all things; prayer works!

God is with us so do not be deluded into thinking He is not there. It says about our God Yĕhōvāh in Psalm 147:4-5 NKJV, "He determines how many stars there are and calls them all by name. Our Lord is great, his power is vast, his wisdom beyond all telling." Be strong and courageous even as Israel was in the desert years ago as they moved forward toward the land God promised them. They were not without doubts and trials but continued to move forward in faith. So, we also should move forward in faith.

¹ "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;" Hebrews 10:29-31 NKJV.

The Aaronic Blessing

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name.

The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. Over 2,363 manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh. Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ
 יְאָר יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ
 יְשֵׁא יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וַיִּשְׁמַע לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

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

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

We have finished Exodus so we say:

Hazak, Hazak V'nithazek – Be Strong, Be Strong, We Will Be Strengthened.