



Mordekhi's Drash for Shabbat July 28, 2007 / Av 13, 5767

Parashah #45: *Va'et'khanan* (And I pleaded), *D'varim* (Deuteronomy) 3:23-7:11

Haftarah: *Yesha'yahu* (Isaiah) 40:1-26

Suggested *Messianic Writings* reading: Mark 12:28-34

Shalom,

As I write, it is *Tisha B'Av*, and I think of all the pain that Israel could have avoided had they fully obeyed the commandments of HaShem. But hindsight is always 20/20, and we all know that everyone watching the football game on TV at home on the couch is a better coach than the one actually on the field.

This Parashah is one of the more significant readings in the entire Tanakh, I believe, for several reasons: the “re-cap” of the Ten Commandments is here, and also the *Sh'ma*, the “anthem” of the Jewish faith, is given. Moshe gives both encouragement and dire warnings in this portion. “I have taught you the laws and rulings, just as ADONAI my G-d ordered me, so that you can behave accordingly in the Land where you are going... observe them, follow them; for then all the peoples will see you as having wisdom and understanding... For what great nation is there that has G-d as close to them as ADONAI our God is, whenever we call on Him?”

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֶחָד

Sh'ma, Yisrael, Ah-do-ni Elo-hey-nu, Ah-do-ni Eh-khad

Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our G-d, Adonai is One

וְאָהַבְתָּ אֶת יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל מְאֹדְךָ

V'a-hav-ta et Ah-do-ni Eh-lo-hey-kha b'khawl l'vav'kha

Uv'khawl naf-sh'kha, uv'khawl m'o-deh-kha

You shall love Adoni your G-d with all your heart, with all your soul
and with all your strength

Moshe warned the people time and time again to be careful and observe the *mitzvot* (commandments) of their G-d. In very strong words in chapter 4, he prophesies that if they do not teach their children well, their descendants will fall away, worship false gods, and do what is evil in the sight HaShem; they will quickly disappear from the Land that they were given, be scattered among the nations of the earth, and will be left few in number. Near the end of *D'varim* this pronouncement will be amplified. Yet Moshe also prophesied that in the *acharit-hayamim* (the end of days), the Jewish people would call upon their G-d and return to Him. The later prophets would continue the same words of warning and encouragement.

In our time, Israel has returned to the Land and has become a nation, as prophesied. While the number of Messianic Jews in the Land is growing, they are still a very small percentage of the population. This is why we say to *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim*; pray for the peace of Jerusalem, for “How can they call on someone if they haven't trusted in him? And how can they trust in someone if they haven't heard about him? And how can they hear about someone if no one is proclaiming him? And how can people proclaim him unless G-d sends them?” (Romans 10:14-15). The Greek word for “proclaim,” also translated as, “preach,” is *kay-roos-so*, which means, “to herald (as a public crier), especially divine truth; preach, proclaim, publish.” Israeli society is dotted by immorality, drug usage, abortion, school violence, new age cults, false religious cults – it is not a godly society. Pray for, and if/as you can, I would suggest that you financially support a Messianic ministry in Israel.

Yeshua so loves His Jewish people that He often paralleled them in what He did – but because the Jewish people turned from Him, they are confused by such passages as Isaiah 53, believing that it is speaking only of them, and while it does to a small degree, the passage speaks primarily of the Jewish Messiah. Gentile believers should be at once extremely grateful and shamefully aghast that every Jewish death has meant life for them [Yeshua for salvation, Jewish rejection for opportunity for Gentile salvation], for Sha'ul declared in Romans 11:15 that “...their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world...” That's a very sobering thought; thus Gentile believers in particular must pray for the salvation of “all of Israel,” for Sha'ul continued, “...their accepting Him will mean life from the dead [for the world].” Gentile believers and Jewish believers in Yeshua, who are both olive branches, have been grafted back into the olive tree, the roots of which are the Patriarchs of Israel. My belief is that to pray for revival in the earth, one must begin praying for Jerusalem; then, when Israel comes to Messiah, the spiritual realm on the planet will be affected, and true massive revival will break out.

Our duty is as the prophet Yesha'yahu said in the Haftarah, Isaiah 40:1-2, "Comfort and keep comforting My people." Says your G-d. "Tell Yerushalayim to take heart; *proclaim* to her that she has completed her time of service, that her guilt has been paid off, that she has received at the hand of ADONAI double for all her sins" [emphasis added].

A suggested *Messianic Writings* reading is from Mark 12:28-34, in which Yeshua related that the Sh'ma, to love Adonai with all that we are, is the most important commandment, followed by the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. How many can say that they have more trouble with #2 than #1? As Mike Bickle has pointed out, we are *commanded* in Ephesians 5:18 to "be filled with the Spirit," but how? The answer is in the verses that follow: 1) [By] singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs [public worship]... and [By] singing to the L-rd, making music in your heart to Him [privately sing His Word back to Him]; 2) Always give thanks for everything [that's a tough one]; and 3) Submit to one another in fear of the Messiah [another tough one].

If we can live as this, G-d, the source of shalom, will soon crush the Adversary under our feet. That's how we dance on injustice, by daily living the Sh'ma.

B'rakhot v'todah rabbah (Blessings & thank you very much)

Mordekhi (Marc) & Yisraela Carmela (Teresa)

This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven.
(Acts 1:11 CJB)