



#28 Metzora Leviticus14:1-15:33

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
(We also use transliterations from Hebrew)

This week is the Torah portion Metzora. 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.

We observe Passover this week. I hope you all have a blessed Passover. Some people wonder if we are to keep God's feasts and of course, the answer is absolutely, they are God's feasts. Leviticus 23:2 NKJV says, "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts." Shaul (Paul) talks like he expected believers to be keeping Passover and therefore be keeping God's feasts. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 NKJV says, "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." We are to keep Passover with the certain rituals (see Numbers 9:11 and Exodus 12:9). Exodus 12:14 NKJV says, "And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever." We have a Messianic Passover Seder available online: (<https://www.teshuvahsa.org/passover>).

I would like to begin today by talking about, **being connected to God in life in many ways.**

Perhaps we think there is only one way to be connected to God. Either we follow God the way we are supposed to, or we do not. Some of us think of the many things we need to do on a regular basis and that is better way to think of being related to God. For example, prayer, reading the scriptures and understanding them correctly, fellowship with other believers, acknowledging God throughout the day, acknowledging that God is present to each and every believer, acknowledging that God is the provider and the creator, realizing that God is a caring

and good God, and being thankful and many more concepts. We should not limit God to a single point of connectivity because after all, He is God.

For some people, the only relevant thing to consider about God is doing what He says. While that is a good way to live, it is not all there is to God. I absolutely want to do what is "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). Let's talk about some of the other things we just mentioned.

Talking to God and praying to God is an important aspect of relationship. Believers realize that their life depends on God helping them in good times and in difficult times. Just recently, I had an accident and even during the accident, God was helping me. I could have been injured more seriously, but God helped me in the moment to avoid a worse situation. Shaul was empowered by God but not without having troubles.

2 Corinthians 6:3-7 NKJV says,

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God.

Sometimes we need to push through difficult situations. I have never had to go through what Shaul went through but I know there are some believers who have had some very difficult times. Yeshua said in Luke 18:1 NKJV, "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

Understanding the scriptures.

I mentioned understanding the scriptures properly. For example, some people wrongly interpret Colossians chapter 2 to mean that we do not have to keep God's commandments. What is it really about?

The context of Colossians chapter 2 concerns the problem of man-made laws. Some take Colossians chapter 2 out of context and come up with their own man-made doctrine and tell us not to keep God's laws. That is the exact thing these passages are telling us NOT TO DO. Colossian 2:16 actually has nothing to do with NOT keeping the Sabbath, God's feasts, or the food laws like so many teach. Colossians 2:8 NKJV says, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men." Colossian 2:22 NKJV says, "Which all concern things which perish with the using according to the commandments and doctrines of men?"

What is the context of Colossians chapter 2 about? Do not follow the doctrines of men, follow God's commandments. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Yeshua said in Matthew 15:9 NKJV, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Our good God gave us good commandments. Why would that change? You are not to commit murder is still in effect and so are God's other commandments. Back in Yeshua's time they were observing extra commandments. They were also using philosophies to negate God's commandments. That is the problem Yeshua was talking about in Matthew chapter 15. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:17 NKJV, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets." Then along comes the theology of our time that contradicts what Yeshua said. You have got to be kidding me; what are they thinking? Sincerity is no guaranty for truth, their theololgy is sincerely wrong.

We could talk a lot about this important issue, but we do not have the time. I would like to mention the importance of acknowledging God throughout the day, acknowledging that God is present to each and every believer, acknowledging that God is the provider and the creator, realizing that God is a caring and good God, and being thankful. Each of these are important to develop. Earlier today, I was considering the issues that have come up since my accident. I immediately began thinking of how thankful I am that God helped me through what occurred and probably saved me from some very bad problems. Are we thankful to God and to the people we know or do we blame and complain? Many years ago, I had trouble walking because of an injury, but praise God, He helped me get through that and recover and God can help you too. Let's go on to another topic.

God's word can bring us closer to God.

People often think that going to a building, going to a special biblical conference, hearing a special insight, or being accepted by others or validated by others brings us closer to God. While a building can be helpful, special teachings can help us grow spiritually, and having affirming encouragement and friendships are helpful in life, nothing is more important than knowing and following the truths of the Bible.

God gave us commandments and since God is the creator, He knows what is best for us, how we best function, and God also has our best interests at heart. We could say that God gave us the instruction manual for life through the words in the Bible.

Some people see God's commandments as an idea on how to live that some ancient document has imposed on people who are gullible enough to accept them. They do not believe that there is a creator who cares about His creation and wants to help us. We know otherwise and do not want to behave like they do. They think there is nothing wrong with their evil way of life. God gave us good ways for life through His commandments.

1 Peter 4:3-5 NKJV says,

For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

God has not left mankind to figure out things on our own. He could have let us live in utter destruction and evil but He did not. Those who do not believe refuse to acknowledge the

obvious. God's commandments have stood the test of time and have demonstrated the goodness and wisdom of the God of the universe over and over.

God's commandments in the Old Testament portion are intended for our good. Psalms 119:68 NKJV says, "You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes." God is the provider of all that is and wants what is best for us. Psalms 145:9 NKJV says, "The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works." God was good to mankind in ancient times and He is still a good God. The truths given to us in the Old Testament are 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 everyone to know and experience the truths given to mankind in the Bible, His word. Psalms 86:5 NKJV says, "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You." God will forgive you if you confess your sins to God and change and follow His truths and commandments.

Not only does the Bible attest to the goodness and wisdom of God's commandments, countless people can attest to His commandments helping them live a better life and that includes me. When I did ministry in the jungle, the people there lived by might makes right. When they began to learn the truths from the Bible their life became better. Many people can attest to this. God's commandments have helped people recover from drug problems, have helped people to treat others with respect, have helped them to have better relations with others, and have helped them to be good and caring people.

What is the product of those who do not believe in the God of the Bible. Hitler hated believers in God. He brought about the murder of some 11 million people. The God hater Stalin brought about the murder of some 20 million people. The God hater Mao brought about the murder of 70 million people. The product of those who do not believe in God has produced death pain and destruction. Autocratic self-seeking opinionated leaders and false religious leaders have caused the death of untold millions. The Bible says do not murder but these controlling leaders do not care what the Bible says, and they self-justify their actions through false ideals and belief systems. What do we want to follow? We all follow some sort of ideals. Why not follow the good truths of the Bible.

We win out in life by working on our spiritual walk. Do not walk in the mire of sin.

It is a win-win life with God. We not only do better in life through following God, but we bring goodness into the life of others by our good actions. What does God have to gain by helping us to live better? God is the creator and the supreme being. He does not need us but we need the truths that He has given us.

Does the life of those who self-justify their evil acts sound like a noble way to live? The Bible describes God's commandments as wisdom. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore 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.'" Don't you want wisdom for life? The Bible talks about the wisdom and understanding of God's commandments and not natural knowledge (like carpentry or electrical work) which can be learned. Wisdom and understanding refers to God's commandments in the following.

Proverbs 3:13-18 NKJV says,

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.

God's commandments are better than money, gold, or precious stones. God's commandments bring pleasantness and peace, and are life giving.

The Holy Spirit through the Messiah Yeshua can also give us direction in life and empower us.
In Romans, it tells us that we have gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:6-8 CJB says,

We have gifts that differ and which are meant to be used according to the grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, use it to the extent of your trust; if it is serving, use it to serve; if you are a teacher, use your gift in teaching; if you are a counselor, use your gift to comfort and exhort; if you are someone who gives, do it simply and generously; if you are in a position of leadership, lead with diligence and zeal; if you are one who does acts of mercy, do them cheerfully.

The gifts (charisma in the Greek) here are prophecy, serving, teaching, counseling (comfort or encouragement), financial support, leading, and acts of mercy.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 lists more gifts called manifestations and Ephesians 4:11 lists other gifts. All the gifts are important, but prophecy is especially important. Shaul says it is for edification. 1 Cor. 14:1,3 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men." Often people think that the prophetic is all about foretelling, but that is not what the Bible says. It says that it is for edification, exhortation, and comfort.

Edification – is to build up or establish (gives us confidence and helps us to follow God).

Exhortation – is to urge strongly or to make an appeal (encouragement, urging to follow God).

Comfort – is to give strength or to console (gives us hope and peace).

Prophecy may be either forthtelling or foretelling.

Forthtelling – is speaking forth (in this case it is a speaking forth to edify, exhort, and comfort)

Foretelling – is speaking of future events The Bible says that prophecy is mostly to edify, to exhort, or to give comfort.

Although God may give people warnings at times, that is not the primary purpose of prophecy. It is the pagan occult that is mostly concerned with fortune telling or foretelling. God uses the prophetic to build us up, to encourage us, to give us hope and peace. God wants us to be concerned with living the way He wants us to live and to follow His commandments. The prophetic is to help us do that. Occasionally, there may be a reason for someone to foretell. Don't be confused about the purpose of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is supposed to help us and lead us mostly to follow God. God's gifts are for everyone Acts 2:38-39 NKJV says, "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name 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.'" As many a God will call; that includes us. God wants us to have a blessed life through His commandments and has given us another helper through the Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua said in John 14:15-17, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth." God gave us His commandments to help us and also the Holy Spirit through the Messiah Yeshua.

For more information on applying the Holy Spirit in your life, see our teaching and handouts in our Divine Healing Prayer Class online (<https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>).

Torah Study

This week is the Torah portion Metzora. 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. This could be referring to gonorrhea and that is what the rabbis think. Those with gonorrhea are unclean until they are healed, and they must also make a sin 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. 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 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 a spiritual picture of us guarding our lives and our 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 should the 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 serve 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. Those who have a critical spirit about God and the Bible often bring trouble on themselves. This is why it is necessary to teach a strong message. We need and want truth, or we will end up with wrong ideas and wrong doctrine and be left out of God's future kingdom. Shaul said, "Do not be deceived."

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." Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone." Unbelievers may mock God for now, but they will have to stand before God for their evil. Warnings like these are loving and caring reminders to always do what is "right and good."

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

These are the directions for restoring the purity of a leper. Leviticus 14:2-32.

A house can be unclean and what must be done. Leviticus 14:34-38.

A man with gonorrhoea remains unclean and what to do about it. Leviticus 15:1-8.

A man healed of gonorrhoea is to present a burnt offering and a sin offering. Leviticus 15:13-14.

A man having a discharge of semen while not having intercourse is unclean and what to do. Leviticus 15:16.

A woman during her menstruation or when bleeding is unclean and what she is to do for irregular bleeding. Leviticus 15:19, 25, 28-30.

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. 2,363 different 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
 יְאֵר יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ
 יְשַׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם 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.